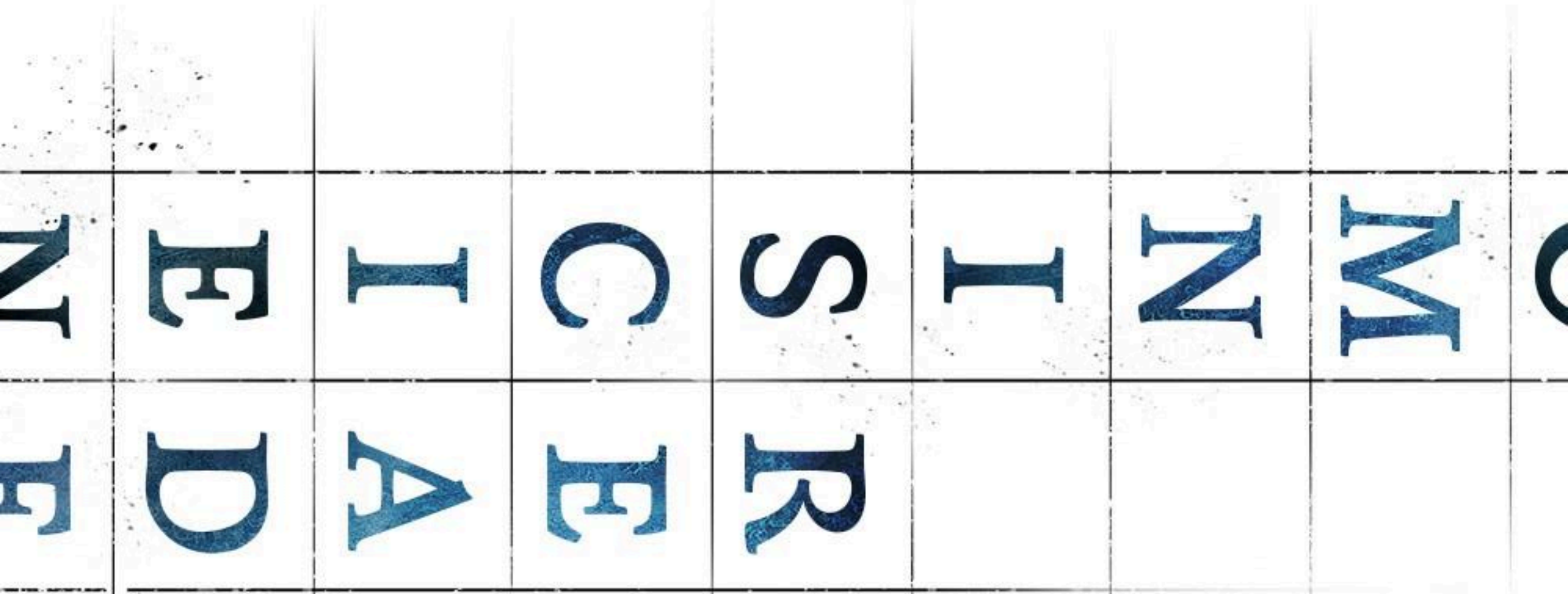
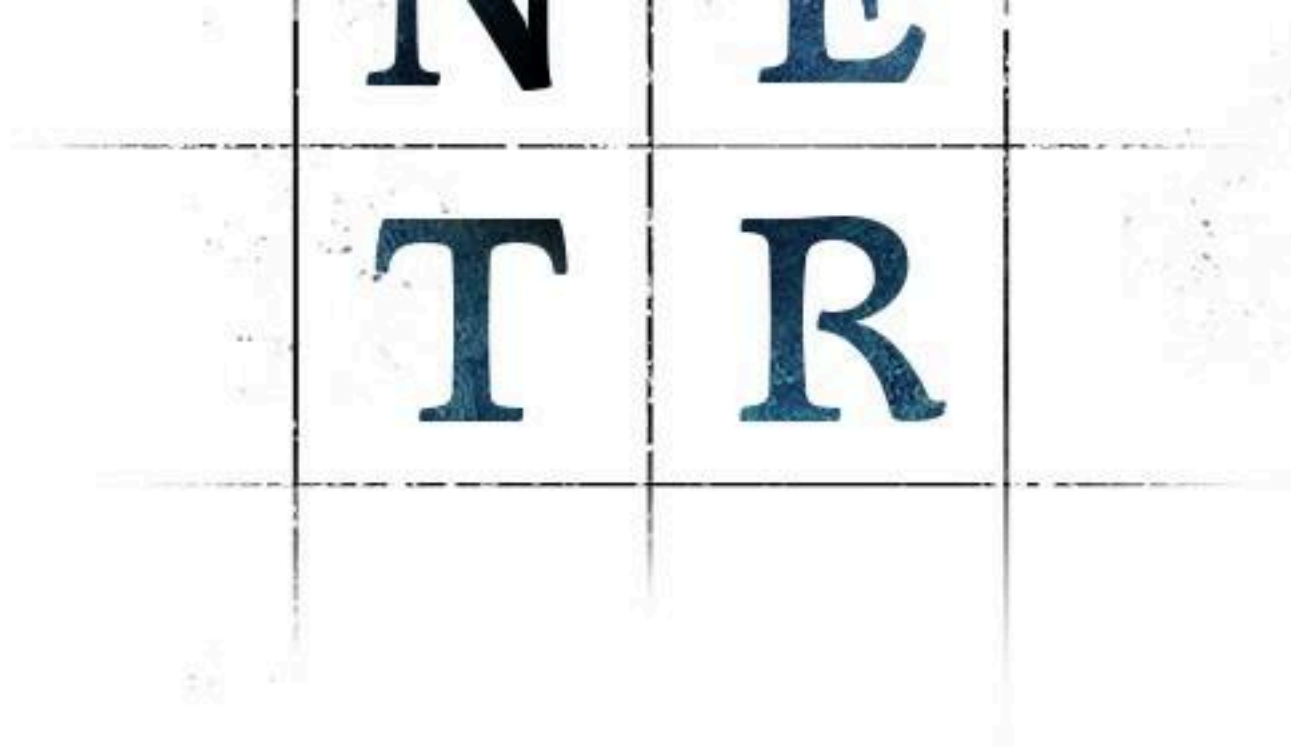
SNAP

DING
DING
DING
DING

9


MISTERIOSO



Art by Sleepy-C | Adapted by UMI | Original Story by Singshong

Episode 8

Chapter 2

The Protagonist

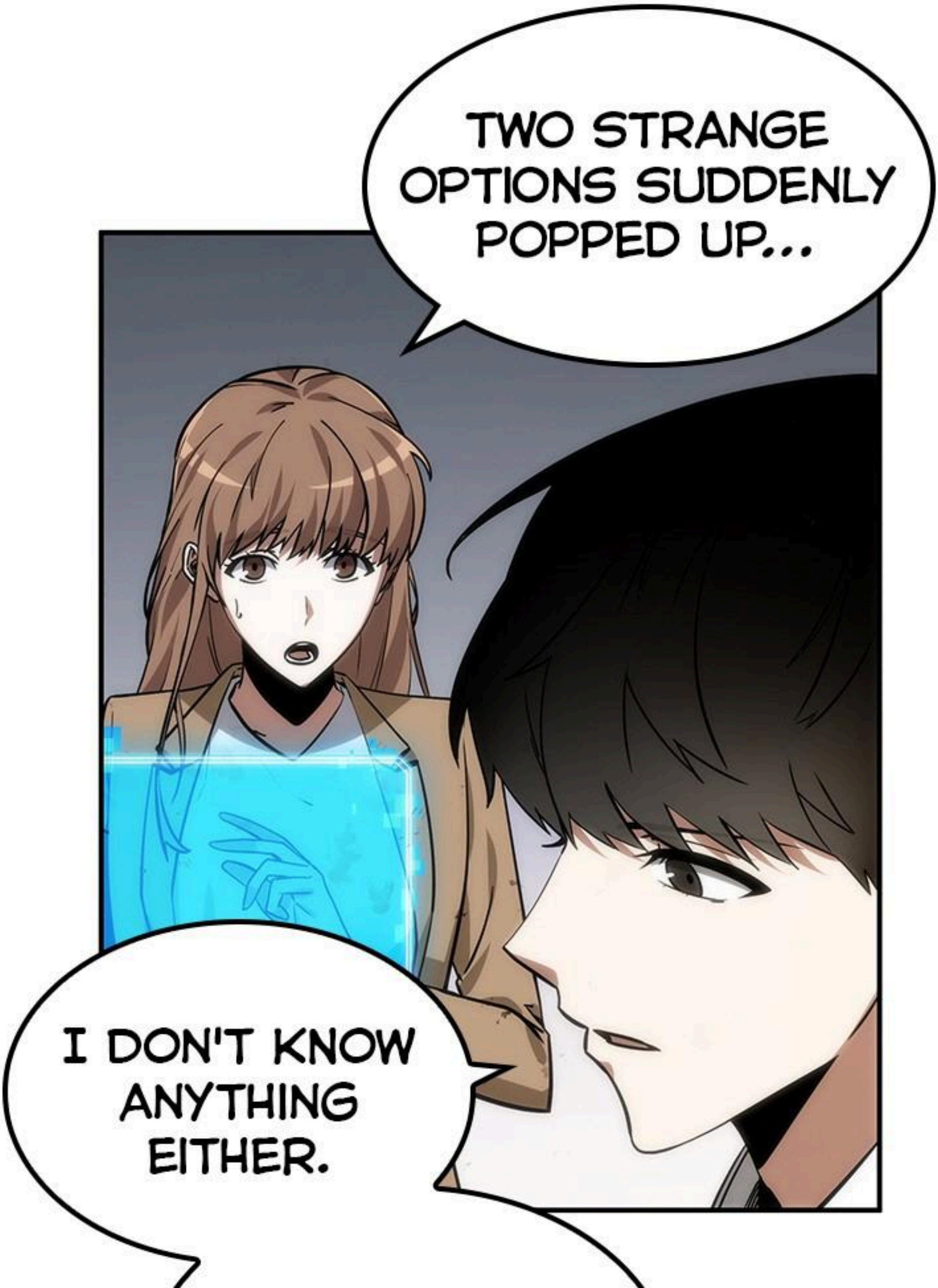
Part 2

DING
<SPONSOR SELECTION>

- SELECT A CONSTELLATION.
- THE SELECTED CONSTELLATION WILL BE YOUR RELIABLE SPONSOR.

1. ABYSSAL BLACK FLAME DRAGON
2. DEMONIC JUDGE OF FIRE
3. SECRETIVE PLOTTER
4. PRISONER OF THE GOLDEN HEADBAND

HMM... FOUR SPONSORS...
DOKJA?


TWO STRANGE OPTIONS SUDDENLY POPPED UP...
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING EITHER.

JUST THINK OF IT AS TAKING AN APTITUDE TEST.

THE ONES WHO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO US ARE THE CONSTELLATIONS.

AND NOW, <SPONSOR SELECTION>, ONE OF THE MAIN EVENTS IN *TWSA*, HAS STARTED.

THE SPONSOR SELECTION IS A SYSTEM IN WHICH THE CONSTELLATIONS WHO WATCH US THROUGH THE DOKKAEBIS' CHANNELS...

CHOOSE A HUMAN THEY LIKE AS THEIR INCARNATION AND SPONSOR THEM.

AND IN MY CASE,

FOUR CONSTELLATIONS WANT TO SPONSOR ME AS THEIR INCARNATION.

BUT THE CONSTELLATIONS NEVER REVEAL THEIR TRUE NAME.

CONSIDERING THE PROTAGINIST OF *TWSA* INITIALLY HAD FIVE OPTIONS...
FOUR ISN'T A SMALL NUMBER AT ALL.
USING THE HINTS IN

THEIR NICKNAMES, LIKE *ABYSSAL*, *DEMON*, AND *GARDEN*,

WE MUST TRY TO DEDUCE THEIR IDENTITIES OURSELVES.

WELL, IT'S A PIECE OF CAKE FOR A READER OF *TWSA* LIKE ME.

SPON

1. ABYSSAL BLA

2. DEMONIC JU

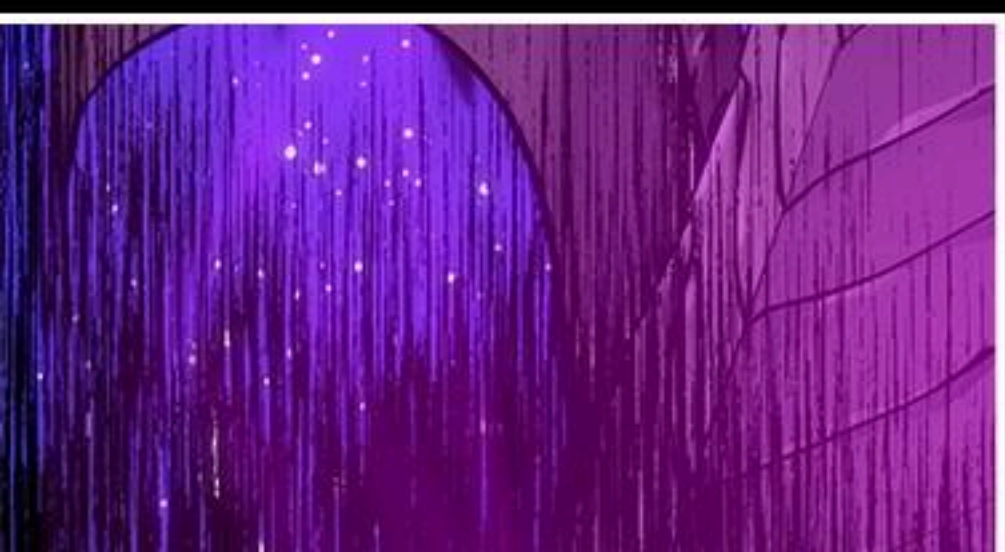
SECRETIVE PL

PRISONER OF T

LET'S SEE... FIRST...

THE ABYSSAL BLACK FLAME DRAGON

HE'S A POWERFUL BEING THAT LEADS THE CONSTELLATION GROUP *BLACK CLOUD.*



FROM WHAT I RECALL, HIS TRUE NAME WAS QUITE LONG.

THE INCARNATION OF THIS SPONSOR RECEIVES AN ADDITIONAL BOOST TO THEIR POWER LEVEL.

CONSIDERING THAT STAMINA AND STRENGTH IS VITAL IN THE EARLY SCENARIOS, IT WOULD BE SMART TO SELECT HIM AS MY SPONSOR.

UNFORTUNATELY... THE BENEFITS END THERE.

THE MORE YOU USE THIS CONSTELLATION'S POWER, THE MORE YOU LOSE YOUR SENSES.

EVENTUALLY

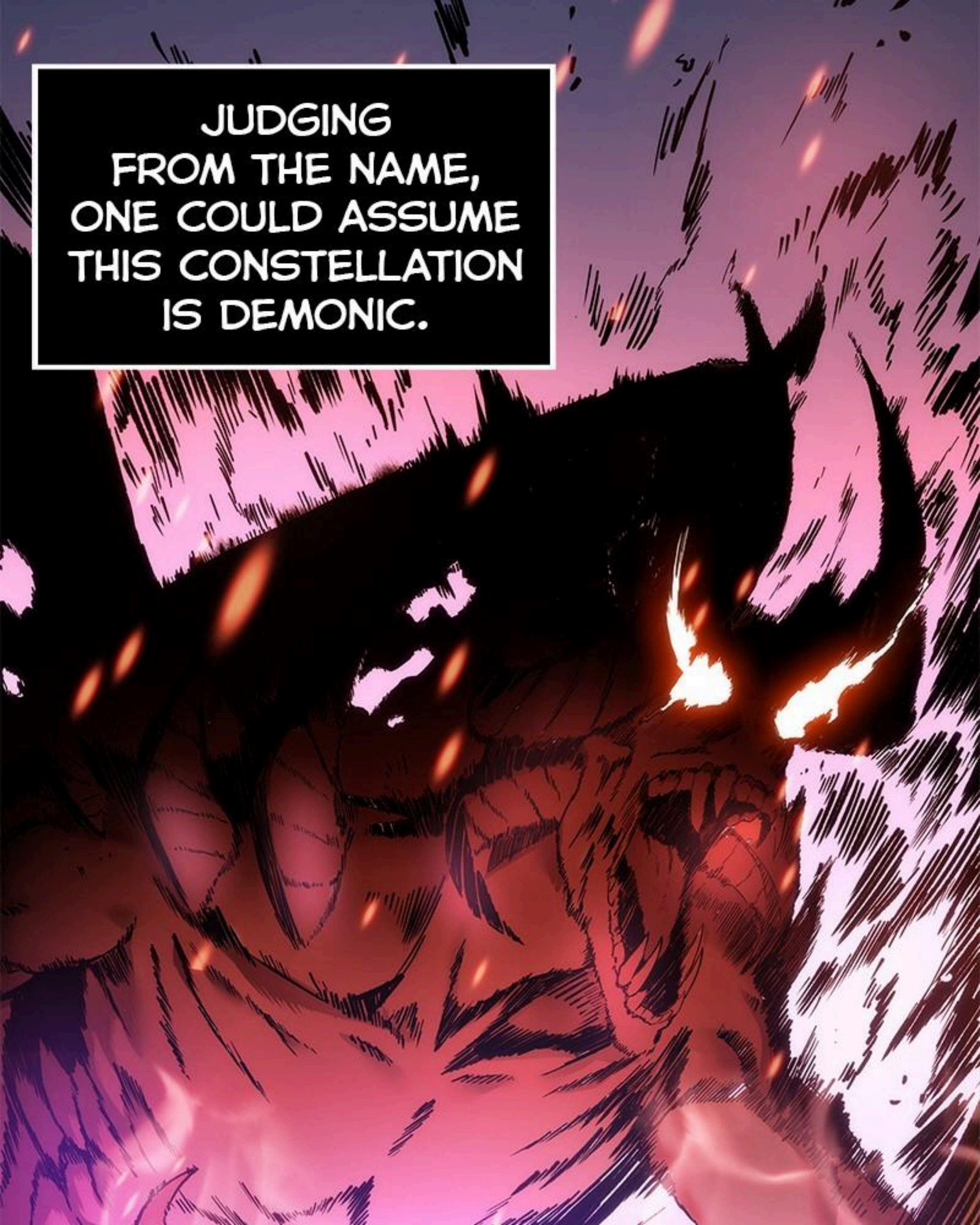
EVENTUALLY,
YOU'LL END UP AS A
PSYCHOTIC KILLER.
USUALLY,
HE SUPPORTS
EDGELORD
ATTRIBUTES.

I'M PRETTY SURE HE WAS THE CONSTELLATION WHO SUPPORTED NAMWOON KIM IN THE NOVEL.
SO... WHY DID HE CHOOSE *ME*?

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT HIM. I'LL JUST PUT HIM ON HOLD FOR NOW.
MY SECOND OPTION IS...
I'M AMAZED

TO SEE HER ON MY LIST.

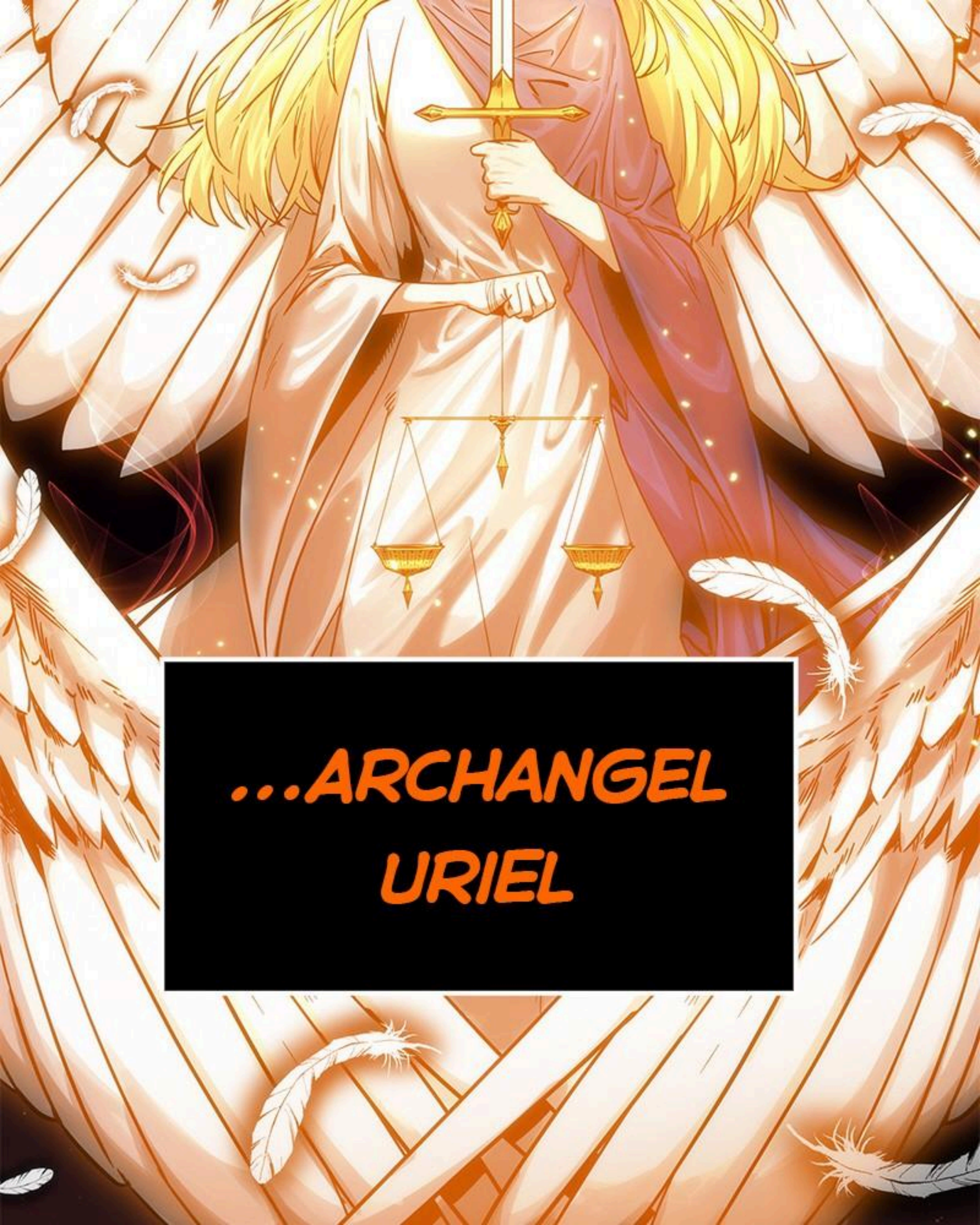
DEMONIC JUDGE OF FIRE


JUDGING FROM THE NAME, ONE COULD ASSUME THIS CONSTELLATION IS DEMONIC.

BUT IRONICALLY *DEMONIC* MEANS...

THIS CONSTELLATION *ISN'T* A DEMON.

THE WORDS *FIRE* AND *JUDGE* INDICATE THAT THIS ENTITY MAKES JUDGMENTS THROUGH FIRE. THAT MEANS SHE'S ACTUALLY...


...ARCHANGEL
URIEL

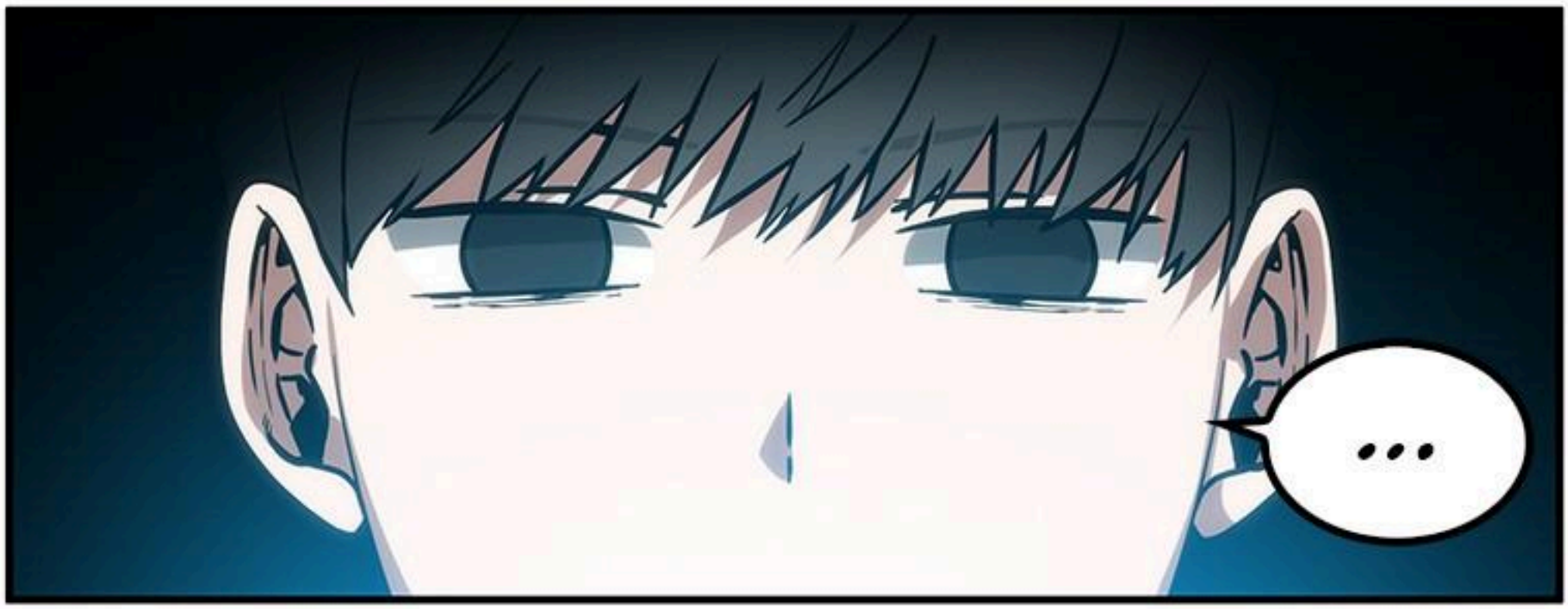
I REMEMBER SOMEONE CHOSE THIS CONSTELLATION AS THEIR SPONSOR IN THE NOVEL.

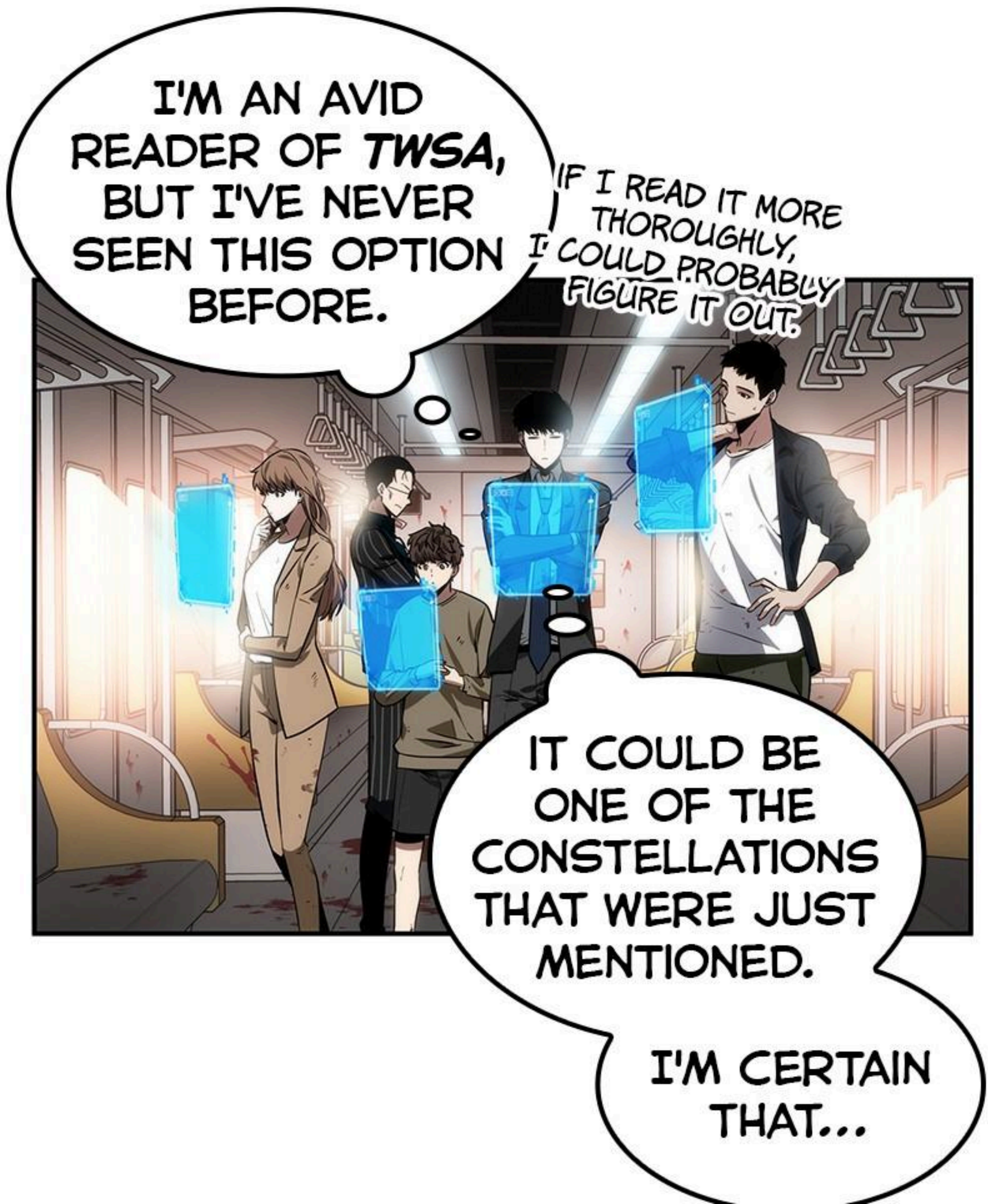
URIEL ISN'T A BAD CHOICE, BUT I'LL EXPLORE MY OTHER OPTIONS FIRST.

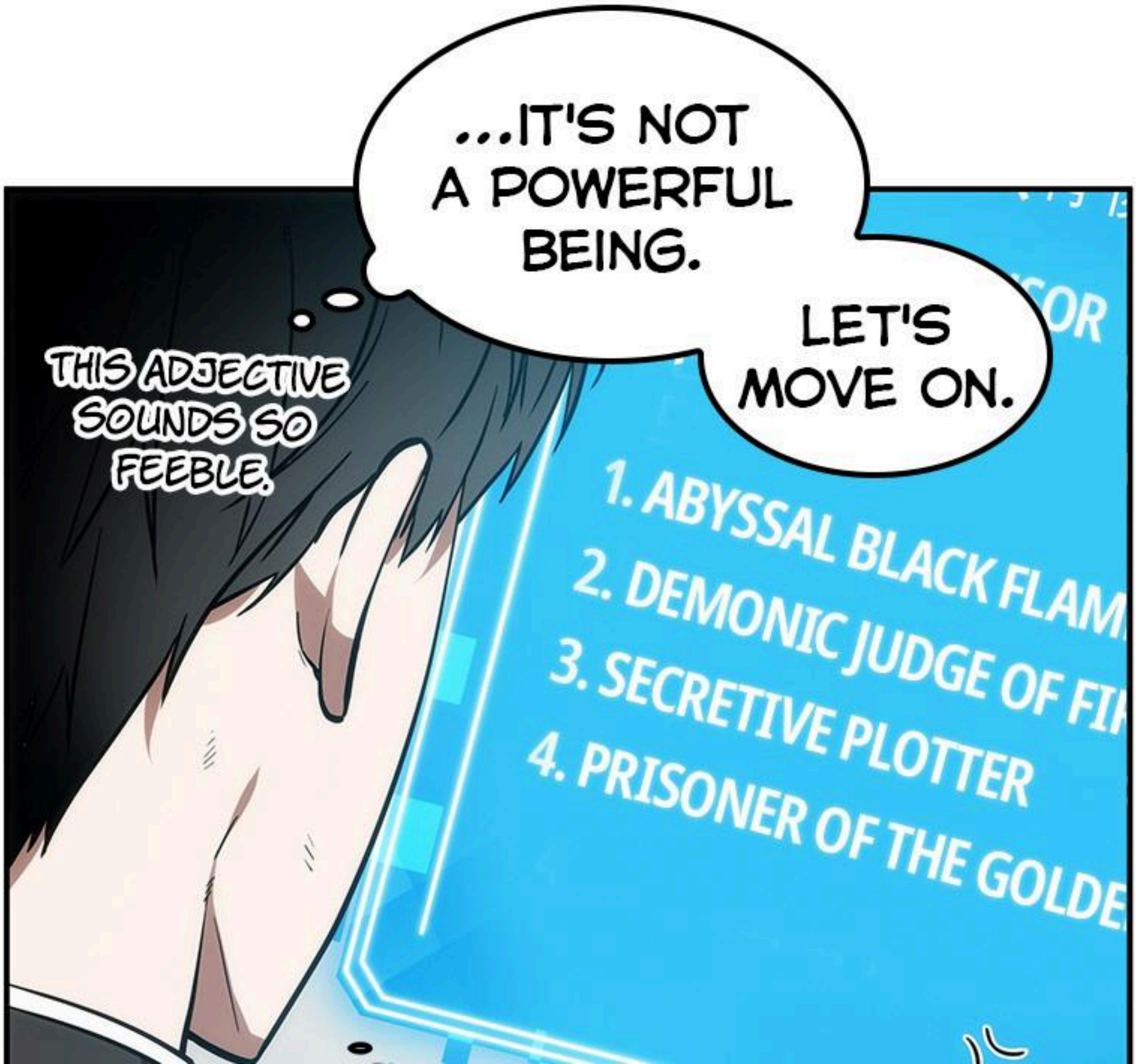
CONSTELLATIONS OF ABSOLUTE GOOD ARE POWERFUL, BUT THEY IMPOSE STRICT RESTRICTIONS ON THE ONES THEY SPONSOR.

AND THE THIRD...

SECRETIVE PLOTTER




I'M AN AVID READER OF *TWSA*, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS OPTION BEFORE.
IF I READ IT MORE THOROUGHLY, I COULD PROBABLY FIGURE IT OUT.
IT COULD BE ONE OF THE CONSTELLATIONS THAT WERE JUST MENTIONED.
I'M CERTAIN THAT...

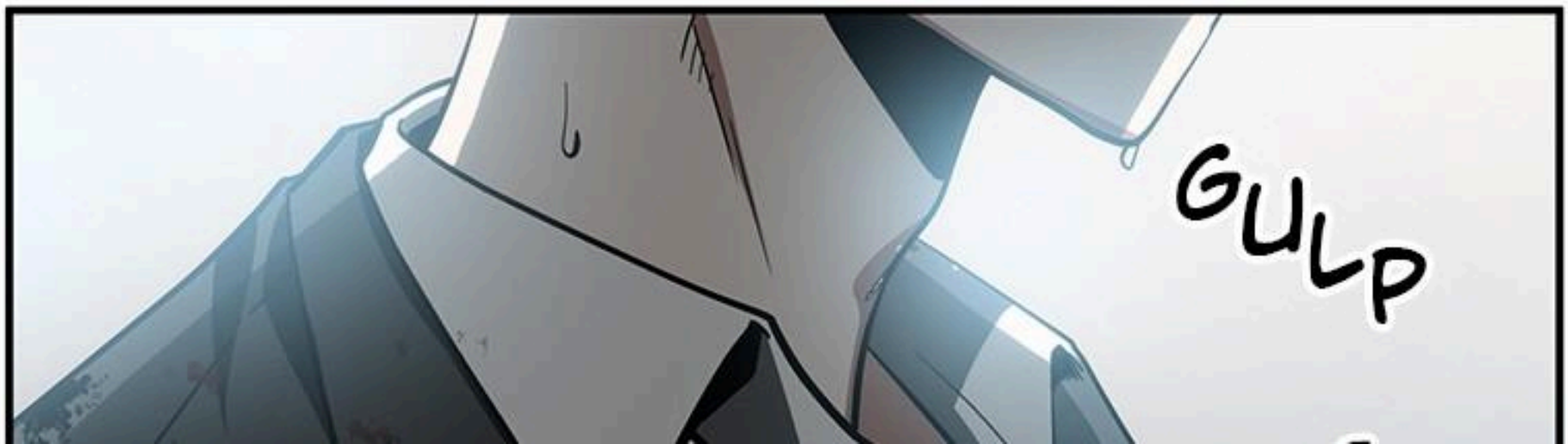

...IT'S NOT A POWERFUL BEING.
LET'S MOVE ON.
THIS ADJECTIVE SOUNDS SO FEEBLE.
1. ABYSSAL BLACK FLAM
2. DEMONIC JUDGE OF FI
3. SECRETIVE PLOTTER
4. PRISONER OF THE GOLDE

THIS IS...

3. SECRETIVE PLOTTER

4. PRISONER OF THE GOLDEN H

...THE LAST ONE.



THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS CONSTELLATION MADE AN OFFER ALREADY.

PRISONER OF THE GOLDEN HEADBAND

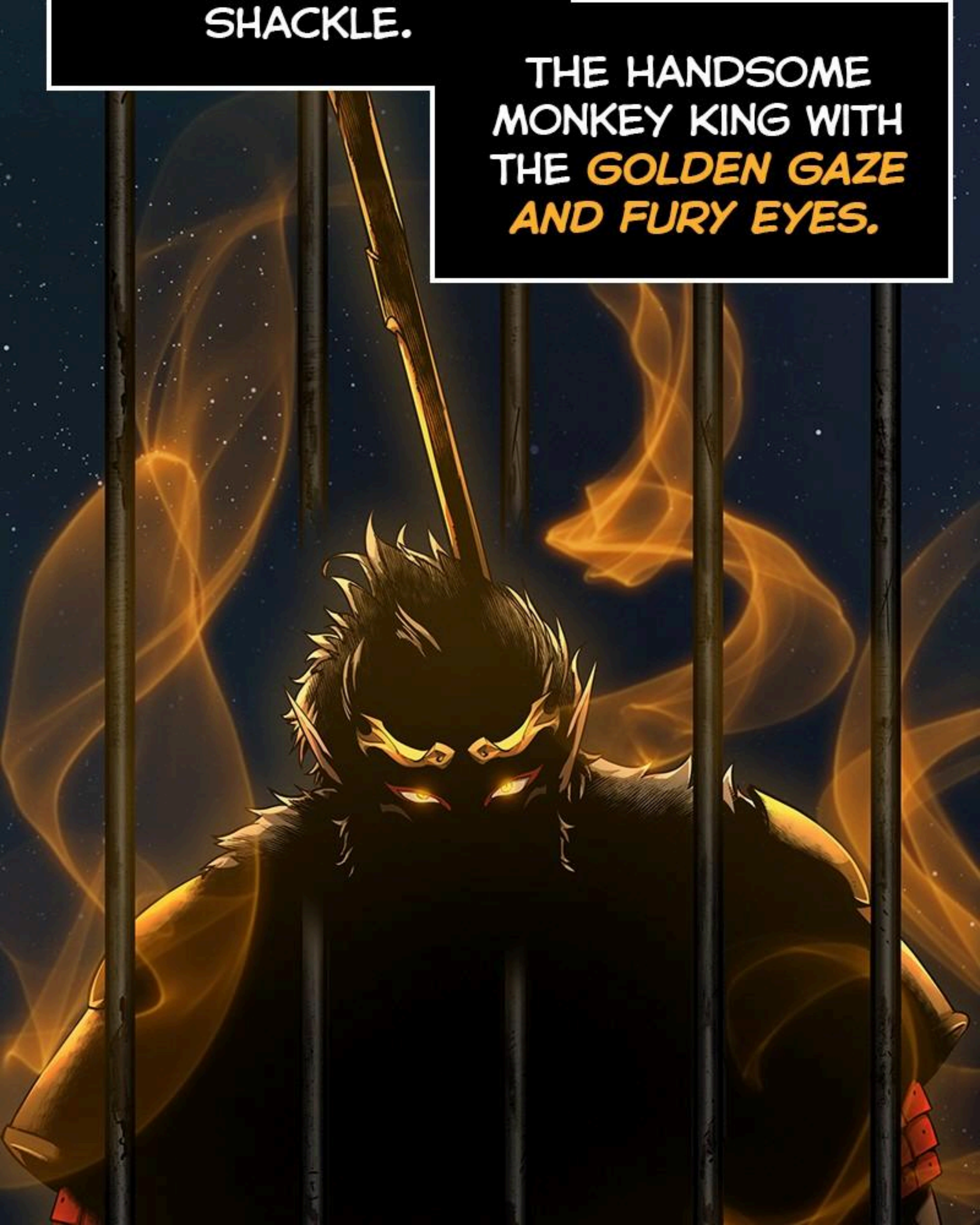
PRISONER.
THIS CONSTELLATION MAY SOUND NEGATIVE AT FIRST,

BUT YOU HAVE TO PAY ATTENTION TO

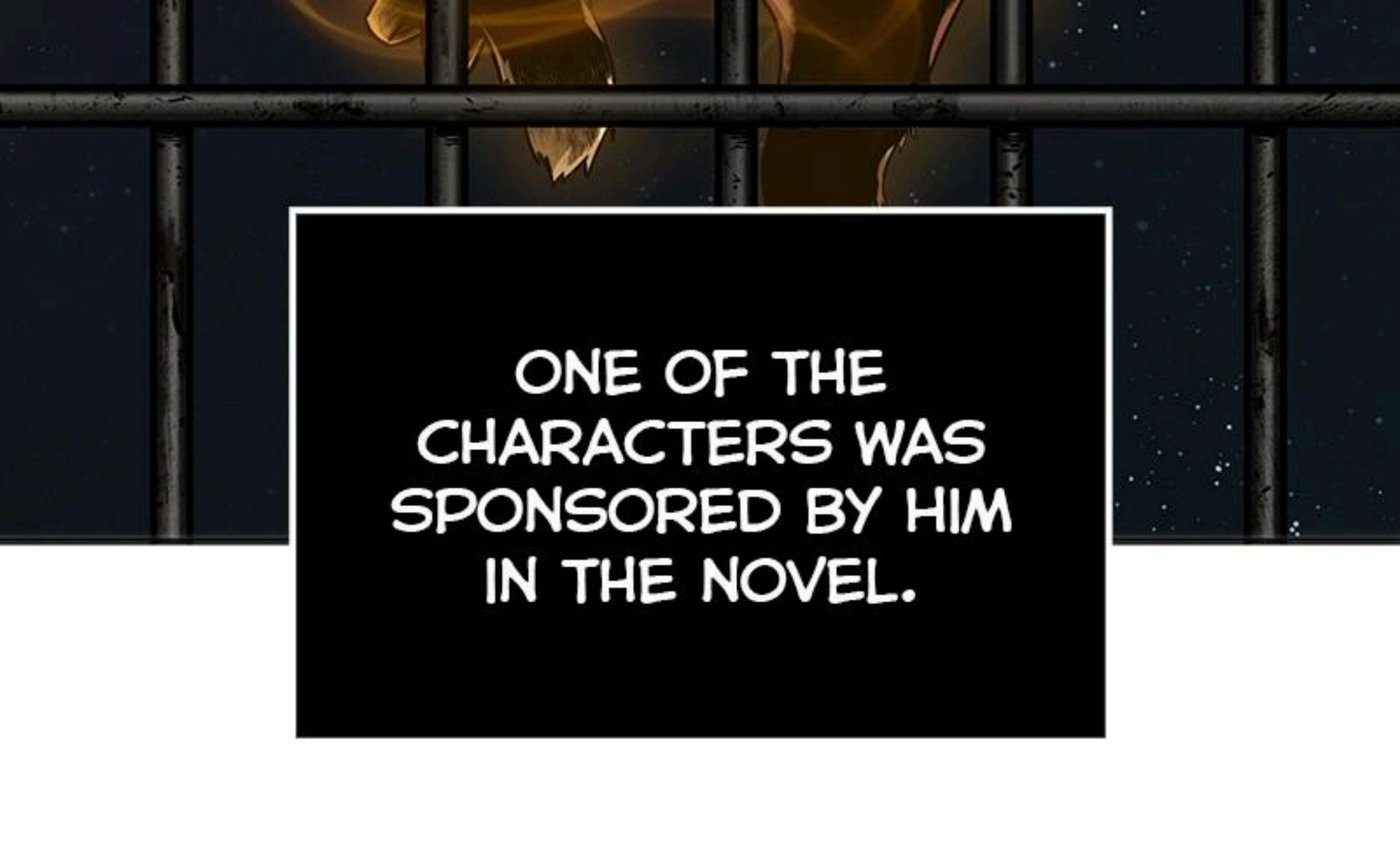
THE PROPER NOUN.

GOLDEN HEADBAND.
THE SMALLEST PRISON IN THE WORLD.

THE OWNER OF MOUNT HUAGUO WHO LIVES WITH THE PAIN OF THE BINDING HEAD

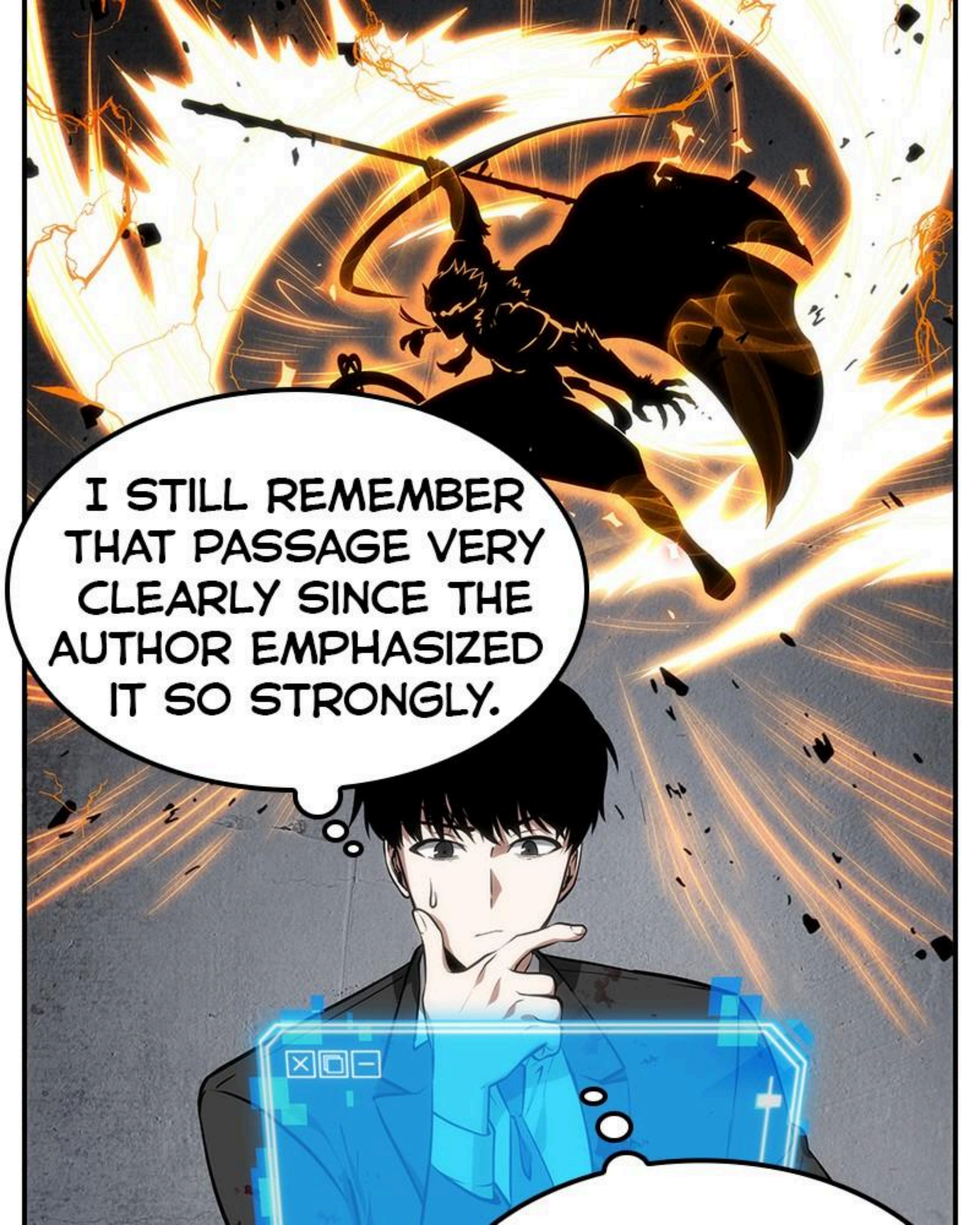

SHACKLE.
THE HANDSOME MONKEY KING WITH THE GOLDEN GAZE AND FURY EYES.

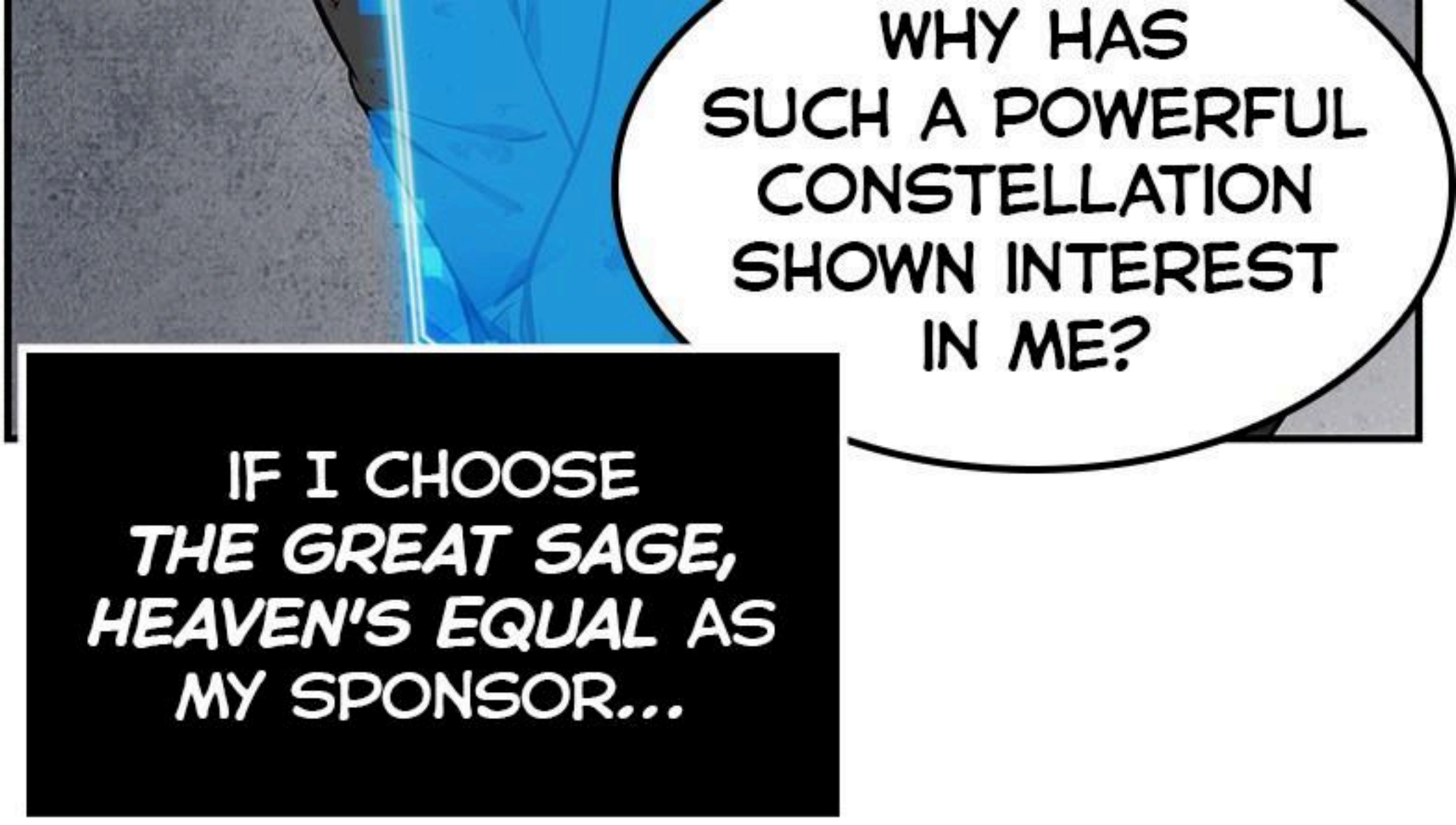
THE GREAT SAGE,
HEAVEN'S EQUAL
SUN WUKONG


ONE OF THE CHARACTERS WAS SPONSORED BY HIM IN THE NOVEL.

"HE HAS THE POWER TO CRUSH HUNDREDS OF INCARNATIONS WITH A SINGLE SWING OF HIS STAFF..."

"AND ERADICATE THOUSANDS OF MONSTERS WITH A SINGLE LIGHTNING BOLT."


I STILL REMEMBER THAT PASSAGE VERY CLEARLY SINCE THE AUTHOR EMPHASIZED IT SO STRONGLY.


WHY HAS SUCH A POWERFUL CONSTELLATION SHOWN INTEREST IN ME?
IF I CHOOSE THE GREAT SAGE, HEAVEN'S EQUAL AS MY SPONSOR...

GLANCE

...WILL I BE ABLE TO BEAT *HIM*?

SING

[THE SPONSOR SELECTION HAS ENDED.]

OKAY, EVERYONE. ARE YOU DONE?

ARE YOU DONE?

POOF

GLANCE

HUH? HAHA. WOW...

SOMEONE HAS MADE A VERY

WELL, THERE WILL BE MANY MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO COME.

WELL, SINCE EVERYONE IS DONE SELECTING THEIR SPONSORS,

LET'S TAKE A SHORT BREAK. I HAVE TO GO PREPARE FOR THE NEXT SCENARIO.

I'LL SEE YOU IN TEN MINUTES.

EVERYONE, PLEASE GATHER AROUND.
HESI

ITANT
HESITANT

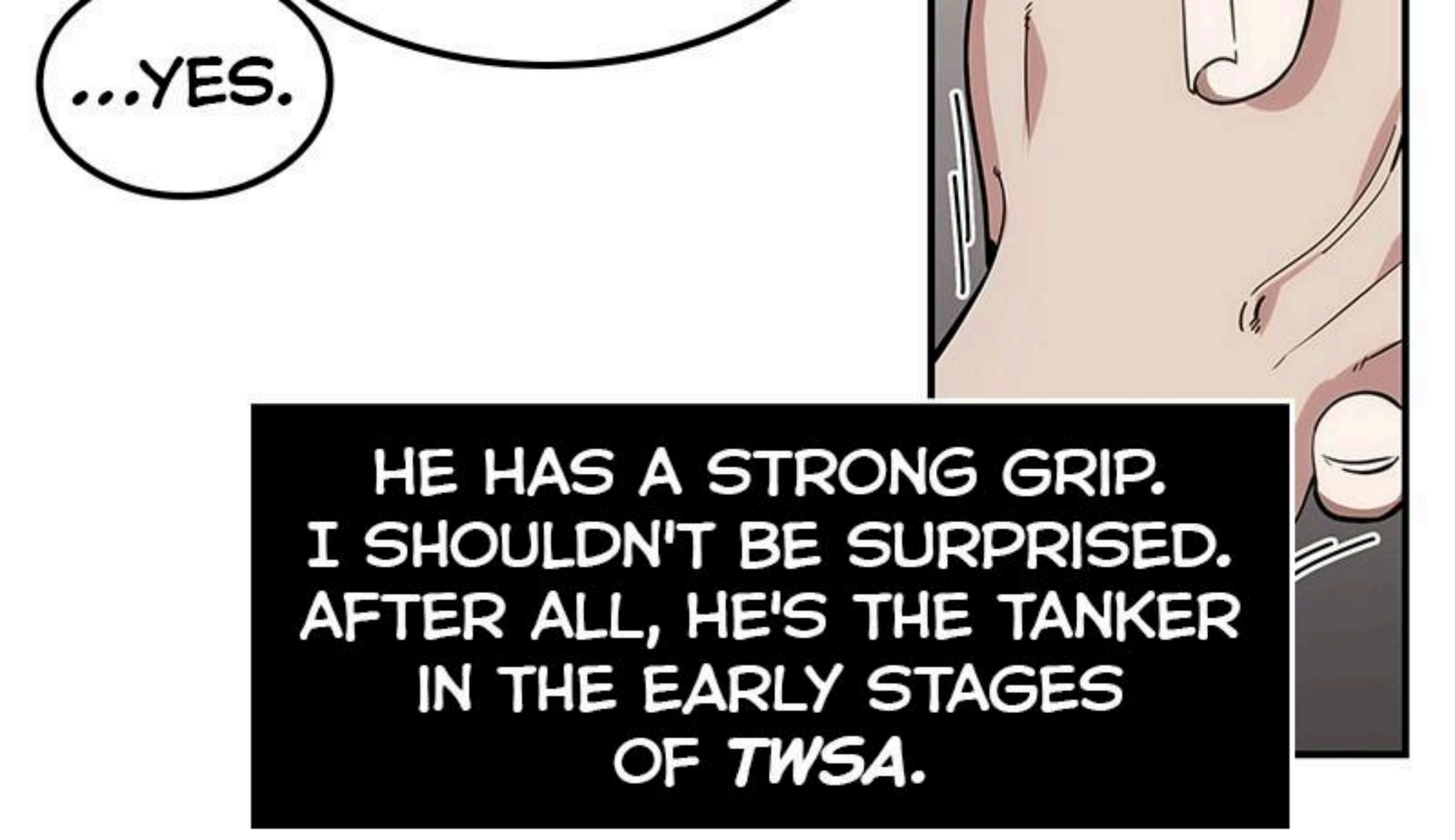
HI, I'M HYEONSEONG LEE.
DOKJA KIM.

I'M NOT SURE IF IT'S THE RIGHT TIME TO BE SAYING THIS, BUT IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.
AS I SAID, I'M IN THE ARMY...

WELL, I SHOULD SAY I *WAS* IN THE ARMY NOW.

I'M ASSUMING YOU CAN'T GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR UNIT?

CLENCH


...YES.
HE HAS A STRONG GRIP. I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED. AFTER ALL, HE'S THE TANKER IN THE EARLY STAGES OF *TWSA*.

I MUST RECRUIT HYEONSEONG LEE.

AND DOKJA, THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID EARLIER.

IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU, WE'D PROBABLY BE DEAD BY NOW.

EVEN IF WE HAD SURVIVED THROUGH *THAT* METHOD, WE WOULDN'T DESERVE TO LIVE AS HUMANS.

NO, THATS--

HAHA, YOU DID IT, ROOKIE!
GRAB
!

DOKJA, YOU KNOW WHO I AM, RIGHT?

...

YES, MYEONGOH HAN.
YAN

PANK
EXCUSE ME?
YOU SHOULD CALL ME MR. HAN.
WE'RE NOT AT WORK RIGHT NOW.

YOU LITTLE BRAT. SO, YOU'RE NOT PLANNING TO COME TO WORK ANYMORE?
WHERE DID YOU LEARN SUCH BAD MANNERS?
AND TO BE HONEST, I WAS PRETTY OFFENDED BY YOUR

OFFENDED BY YOUR LITTLE STUNT BACK THERE.

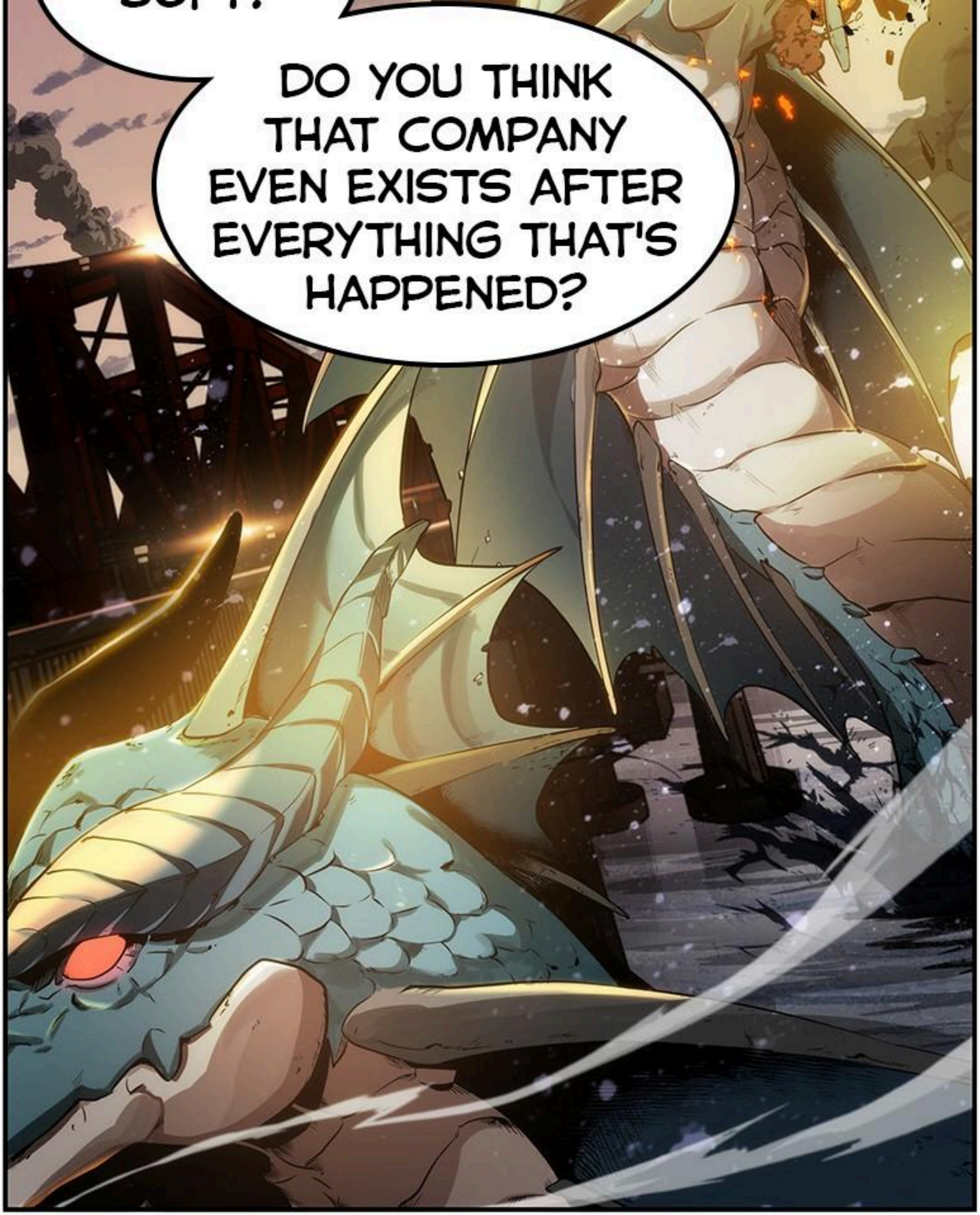
IF THERE WERE BUGS, YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME.

HOW DARE YOU JUST THROW THEM-?

SHUT UP, MYEONGOH HAN.

W-WHAT?
DON'T YOU SEE WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
SHOULD I HAVE LET THAT PUNK HIT YOU TO MAKE

YOU COME TO YOUR SENSES?


DO YOU THINK THAT COMPANY EVEN EXISTS AFTER EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED?

AND HE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO NEEDS A WAKE-UP CALL. EVERYONE HERE NEEDS TO COME TO THEIR SENSES.

AS THE DOKKAEBI SAID, THIS ISN'T A JOKE.

I'M SURE ALL OF YOU REALIZE WHAT'S GOING ON BY NOW.

A GAME-LIKE INTERFACE.

MAIN SCENARIO #1

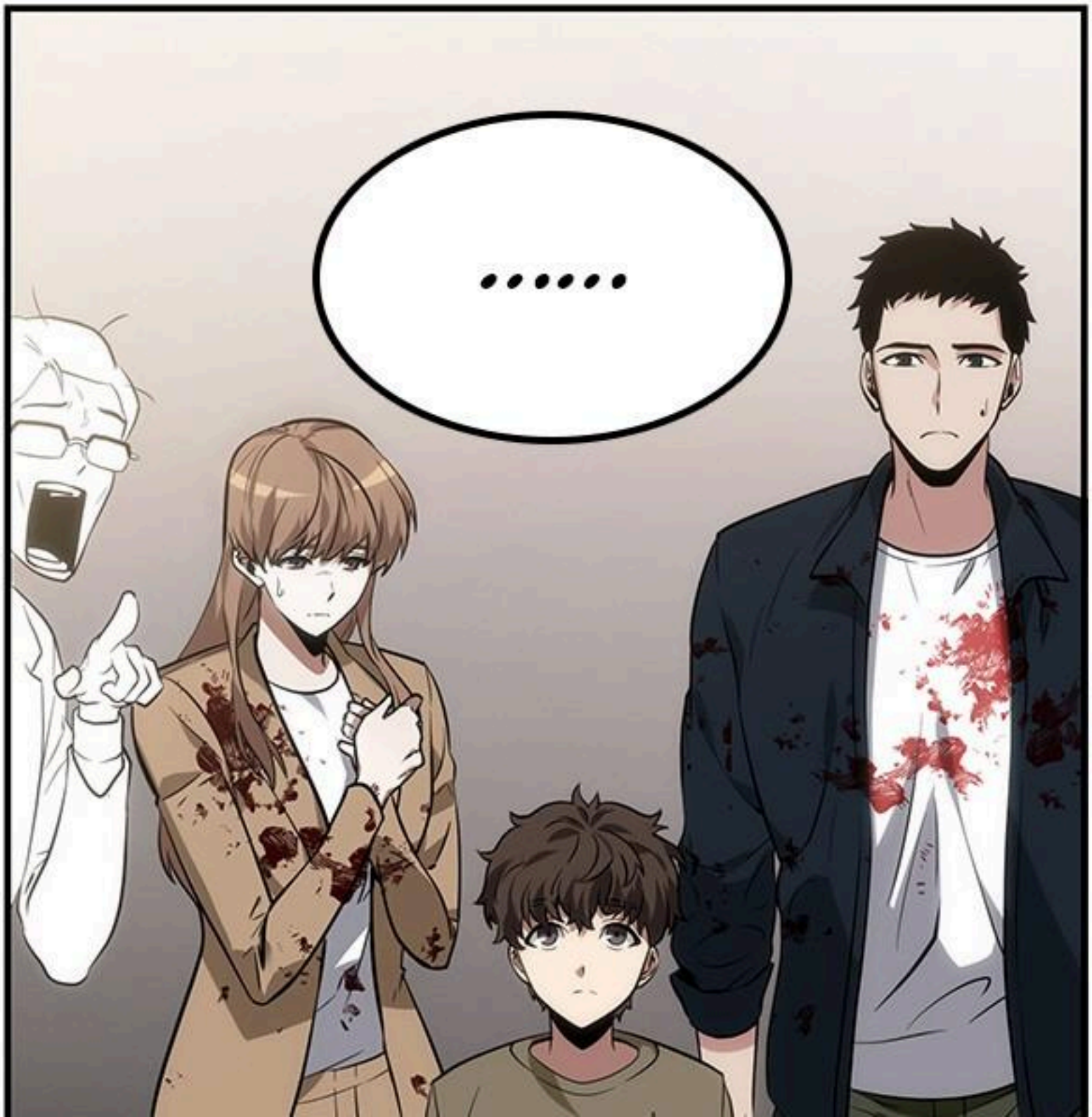
[PROVE YOUR VALUE]

KILL ONE OR MORE LIVING ORGANISMS.

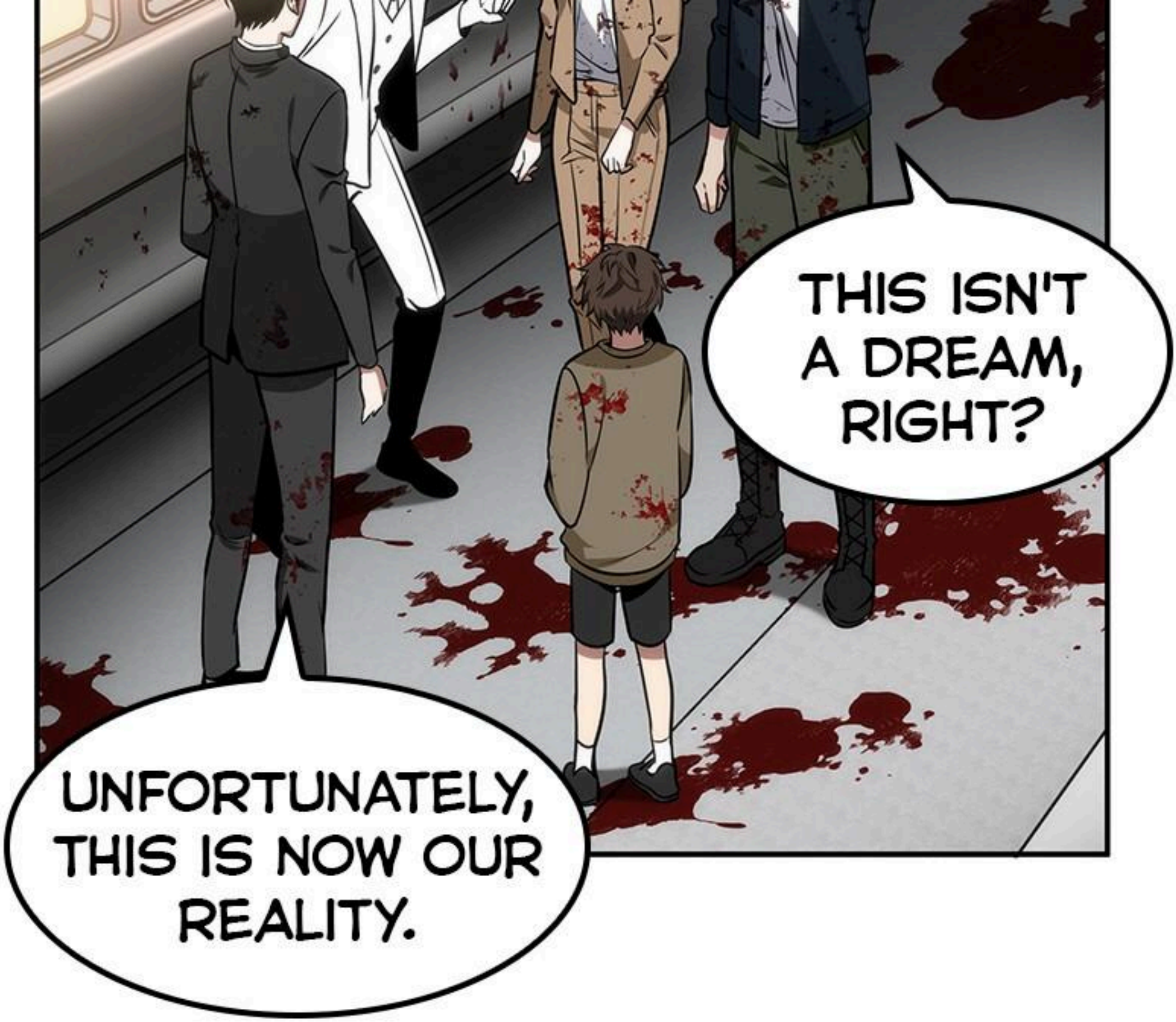
CATEGORY: MAIN
DIFFICULTY: F
TIME LIMIT: 30 MINUTES ▶ 10 MINUTES
REWARD: 300 COINS
PENALTY FOR FAILURE: DEATH

ATTRIBUTE WINDOWS AND SKILLS.

IS THERE SOMEONE WHO STILL DOESN'T GET WHAT'S GOING ON?



IT'S THE KIND OF THING I READ ABOUT IN NOVELS WHILE COVERING THE NIGHT SHIFT.
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS REAL.


THIS ISN'T A DREAM, RIGHT?
UNFORTUNATELY, THIS IS NOW OUR REALITY.

IT'S A GOOD THING THAT AT LEAST ONE PERSON IS CERTAIN ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON.
SO WHAT NOW?
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS, DOKJA?

DING

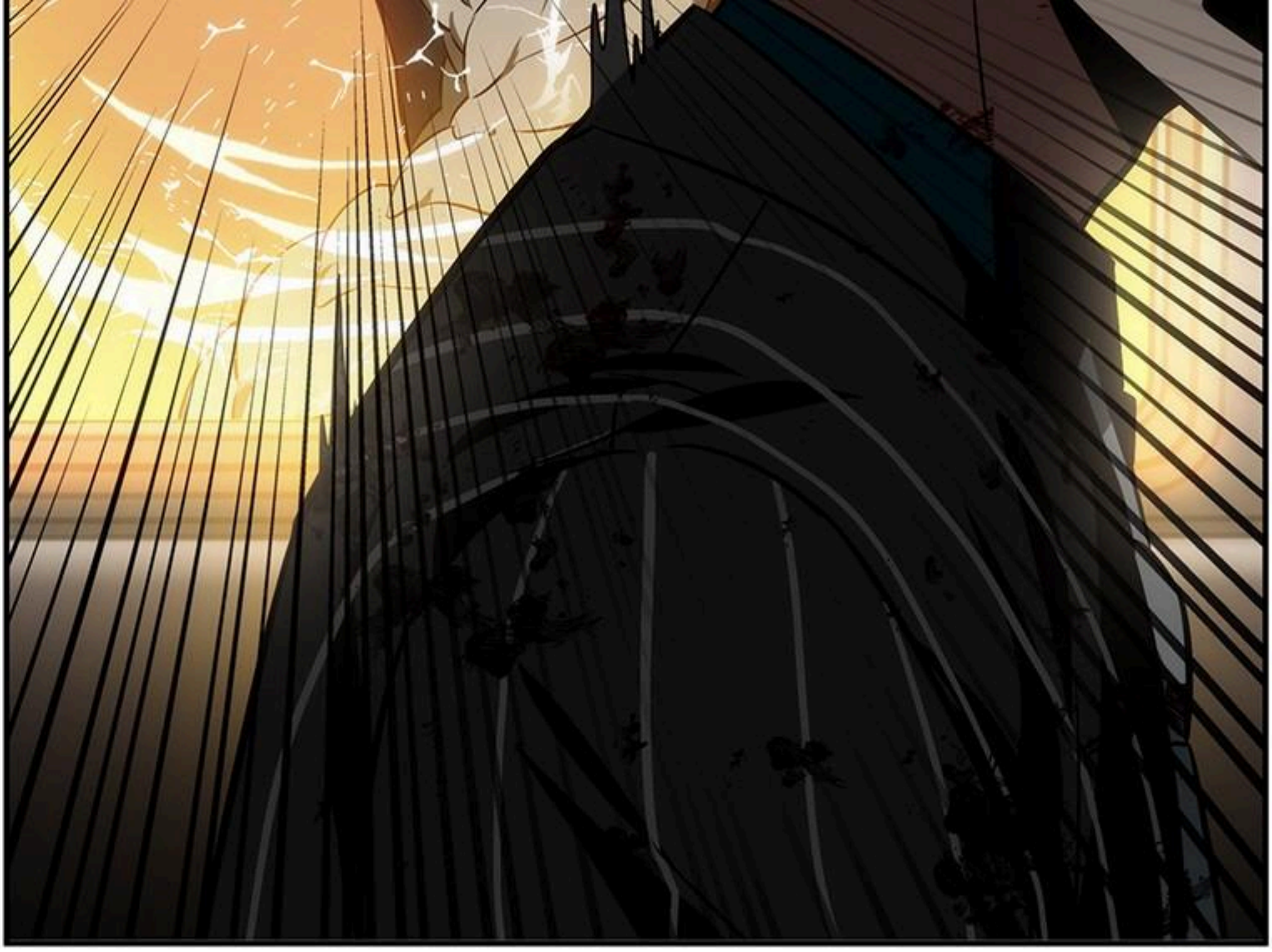
[*HYEONSEONG LEE* HAS STARTED TO TRUST YOU.]

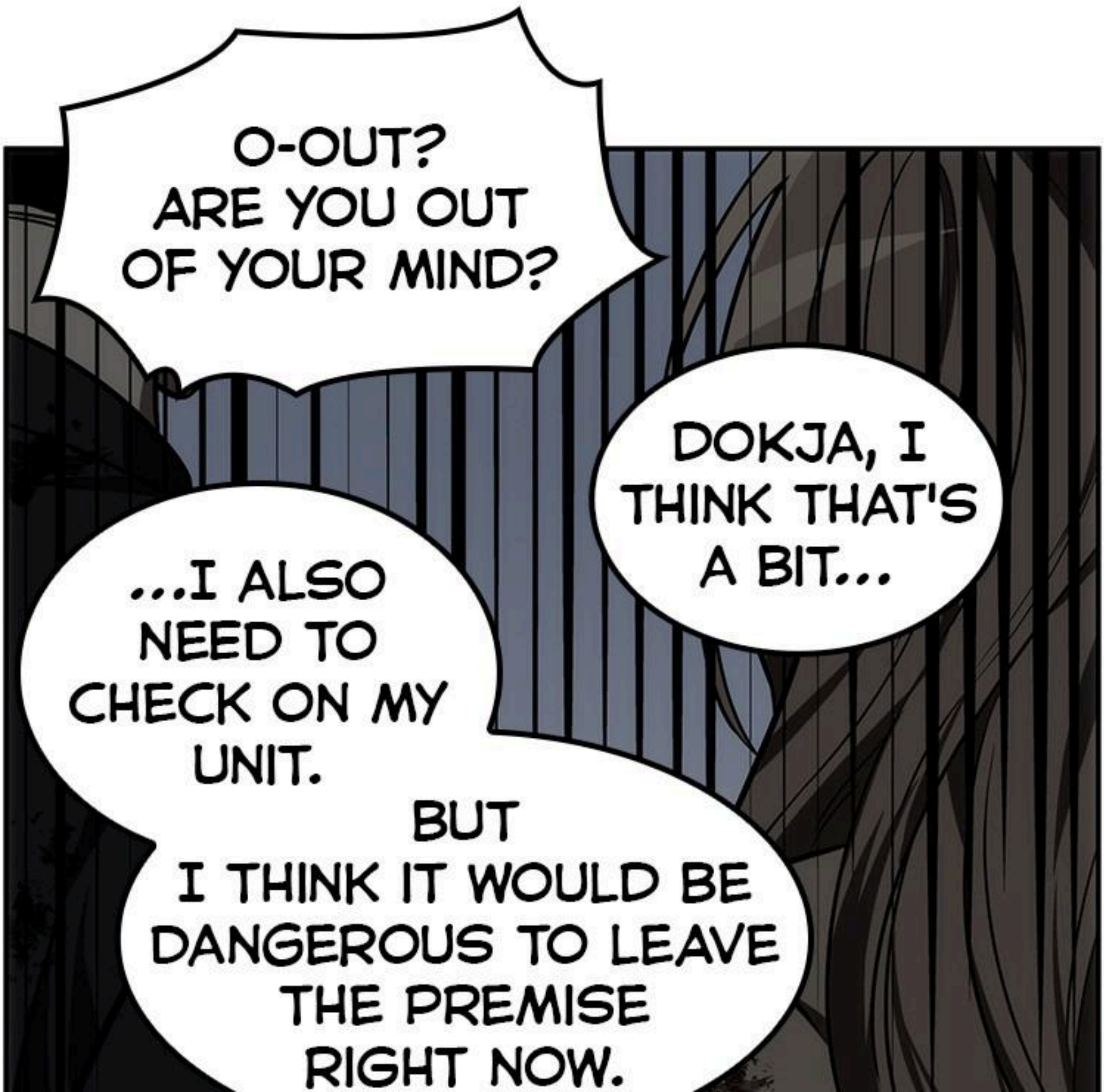
DING

[YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF *HYEONSEONG LEE* HAS INCREASED.]

WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE.

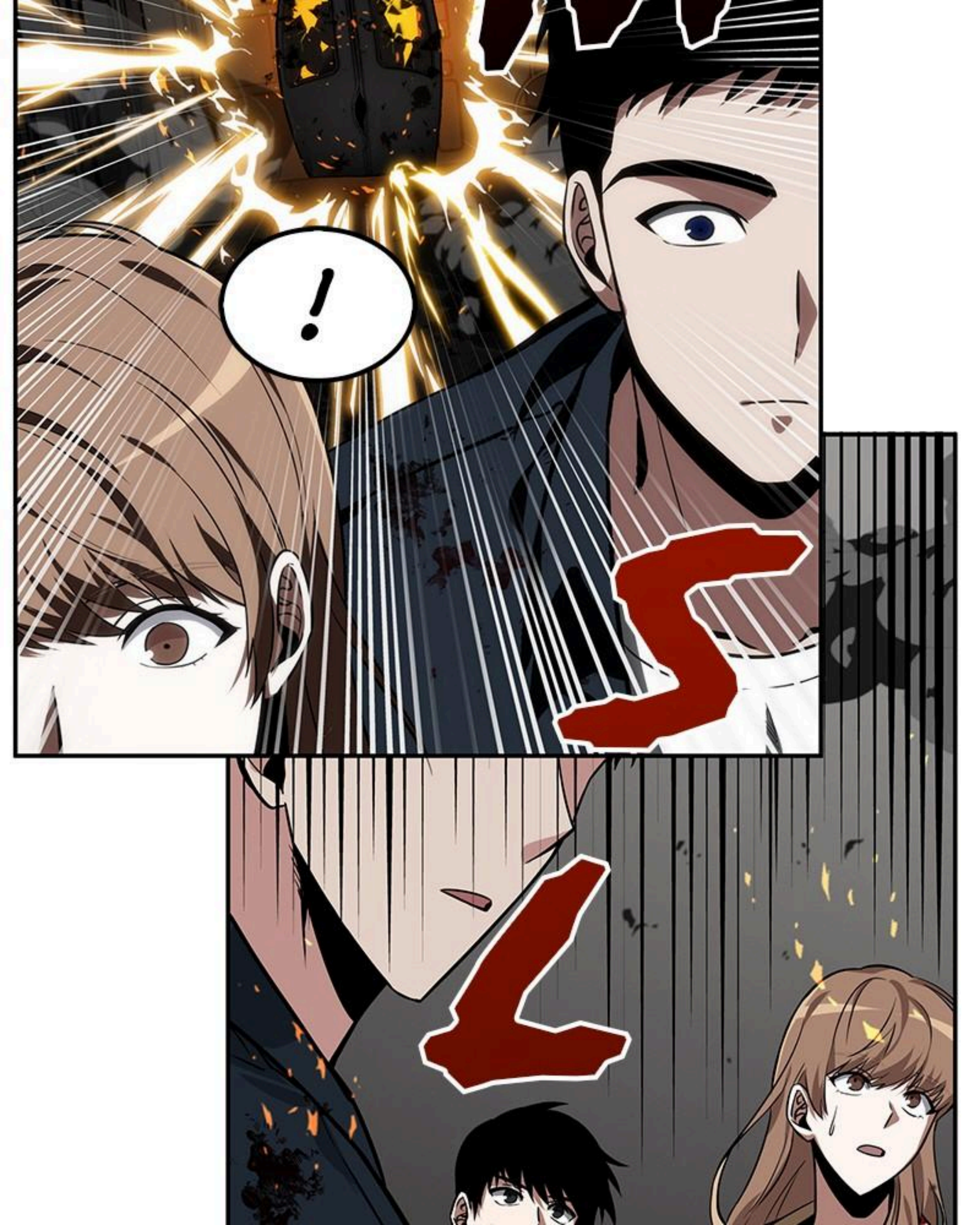
ROAR



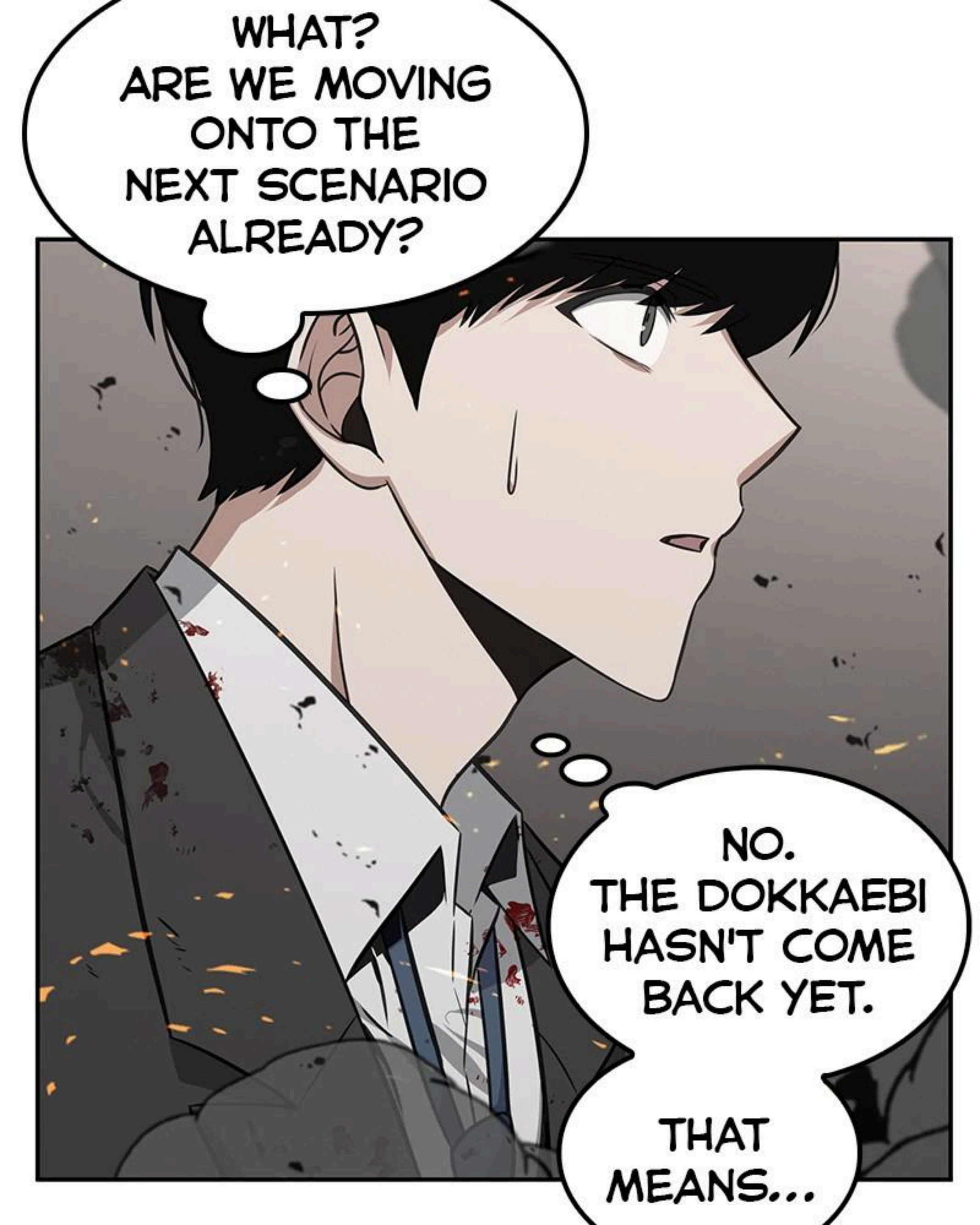

O-OUT? ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?
DOKJA, I THINK THAT'S A BIT...
...I ALSO NEED TO CHECK ON MY UNIT.
BUT I THINK IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS TO LEAVE THE PREMISE RIGHT NOW.

YEAH! IF WE LEAVE, WE'RE GOING TO GET KILLED!
OH NO... EVEN HYEONSEONG IS AGAINST IT.
I-NEED TO TAKE HIM WITH ME NO MATTER WHAT.

SLAM



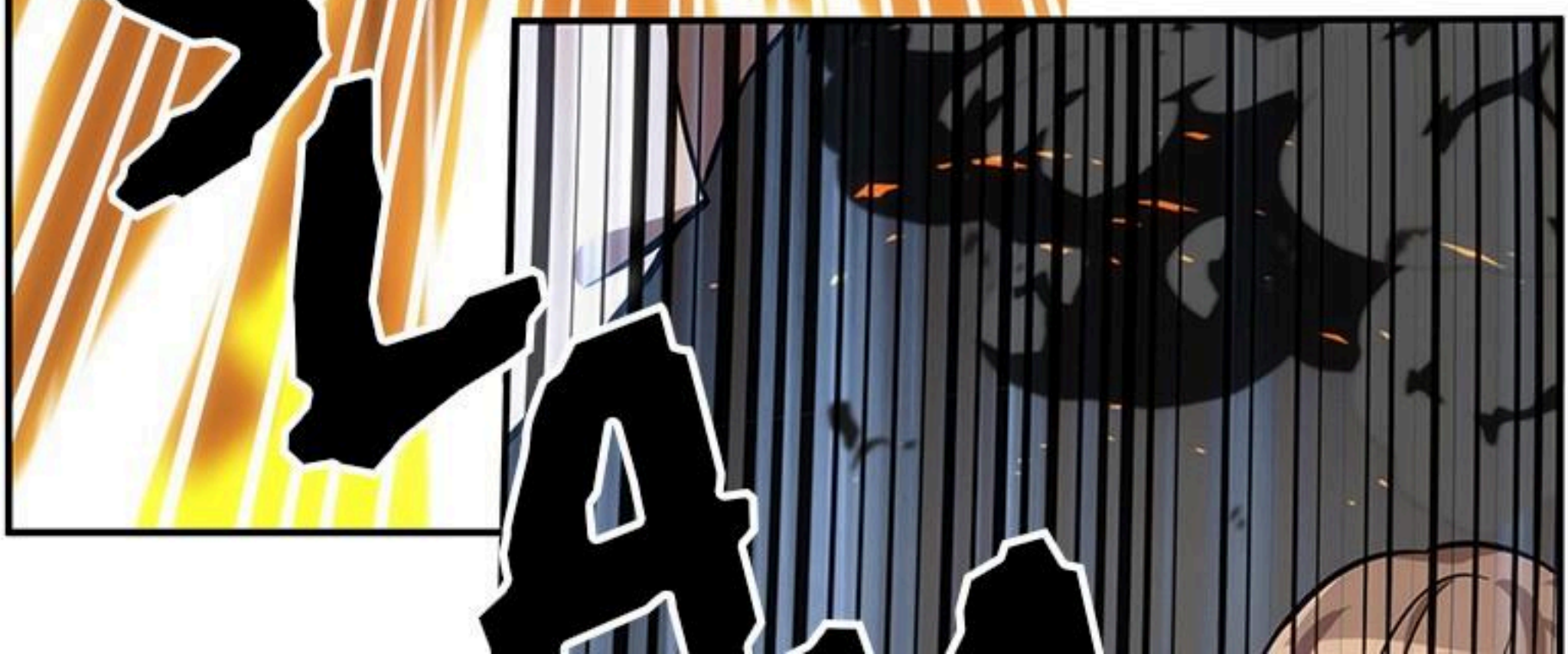
ㅅㅅ


WHAT? ARE WE MOVING ONTO THE NEXT SCENARIO ALREADY?
NO. THE DOKKAEBI HASN'T COME BACK YET.
THAT MEANS...

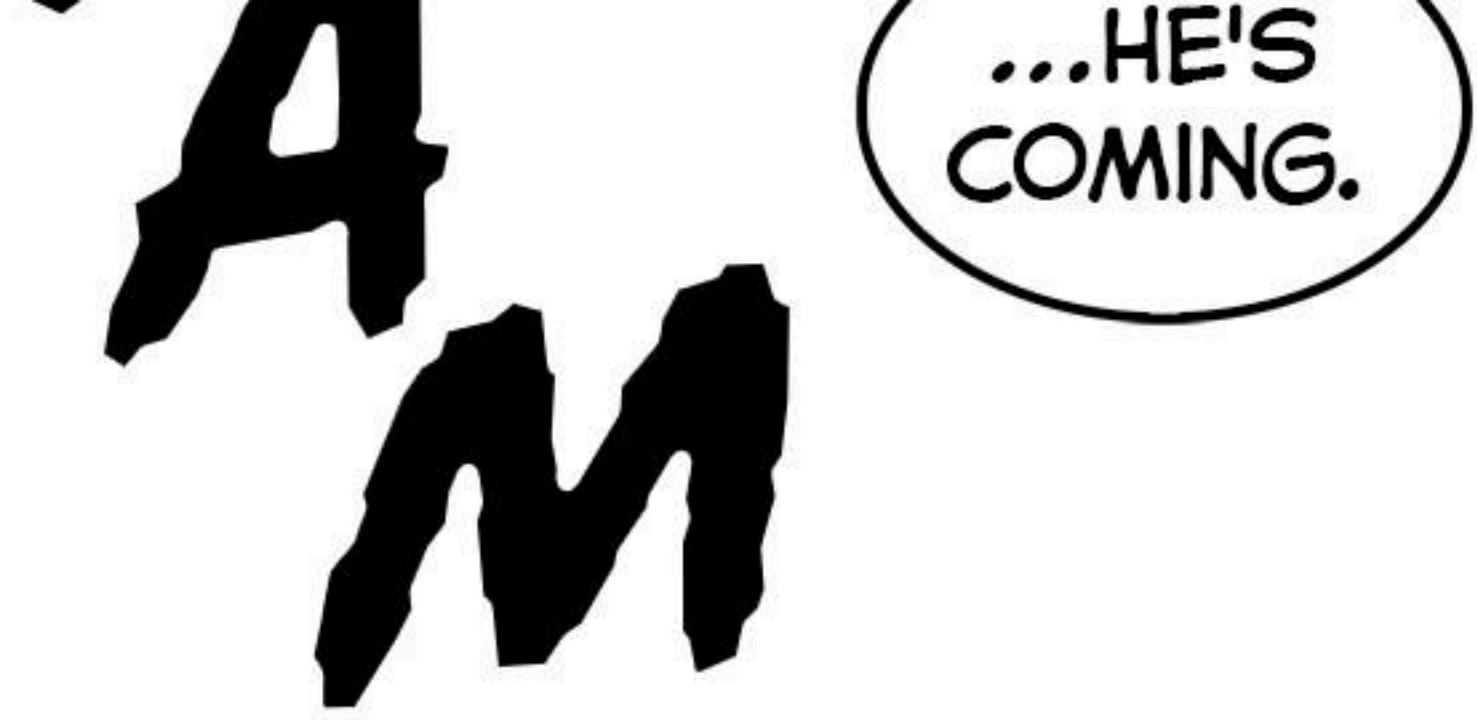
...THE PERSON ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT DOOR IS THE SOLE SURVIVOR OF SUBWAY CABIN 3707.

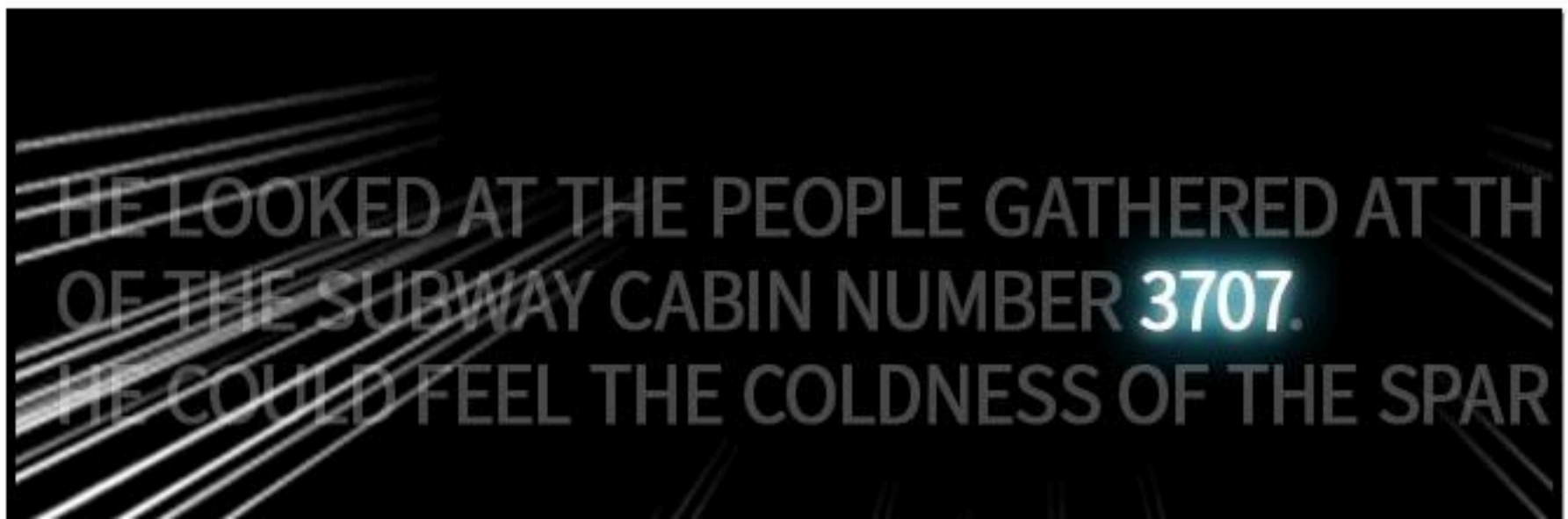
ちゃ

IT WAS
QUITE OBVIOUS
WHO THAT WAS.



スッ


A
M
...HE'S COMING.


HE LOOKED AT THE PEOPLE GATHERED AT TH
OF THE SUBWAY CABIN NUMBER 3707.
HE COULD FEEL THE COLDNESS OF THE SPAR

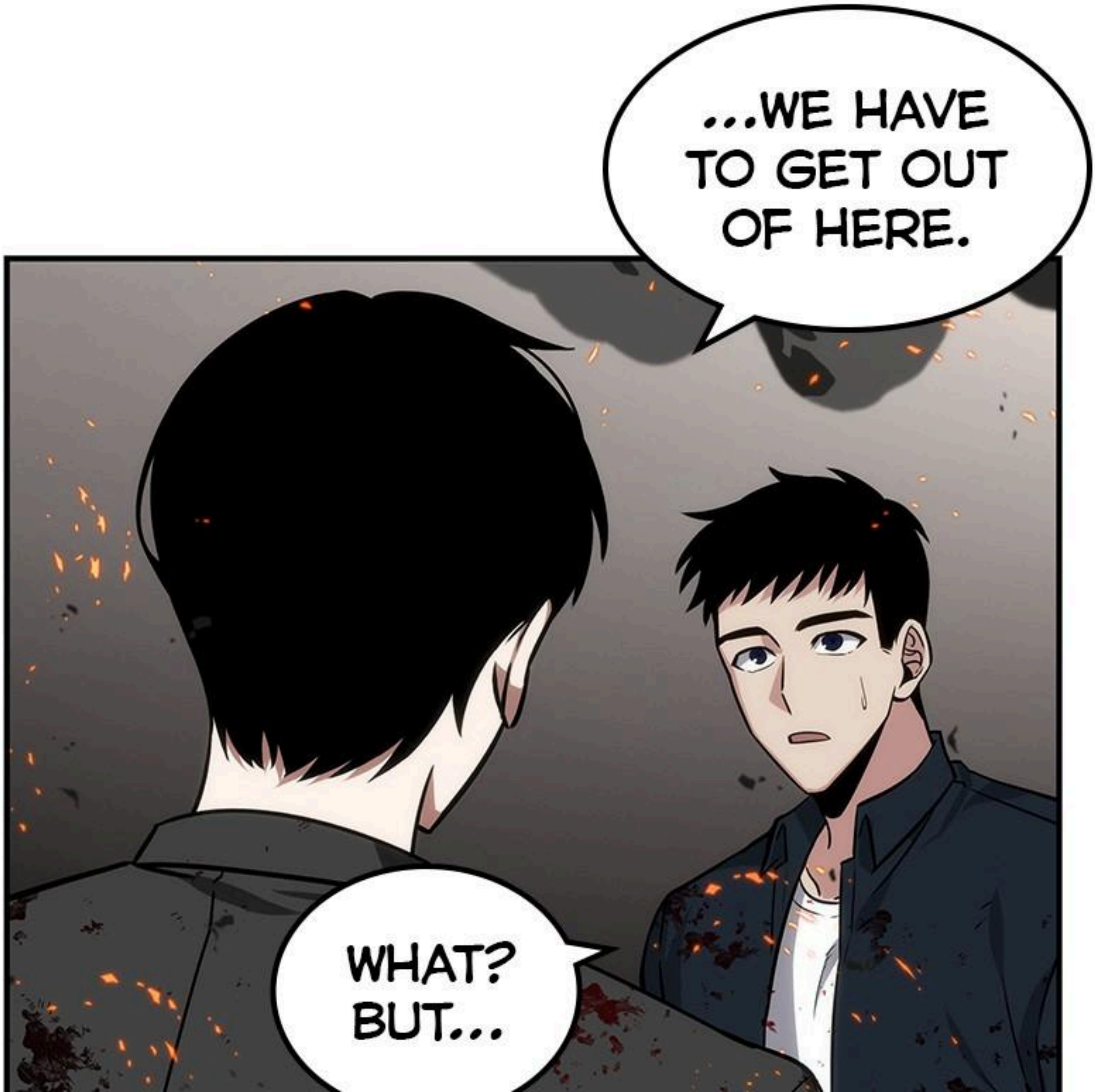
HE PROMISED HIMSELF NOT TO MAKE A MISTA
HE WILL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO ACHIEVE

PEOPLE'S FACES WERE FROZEN IN FEAR.

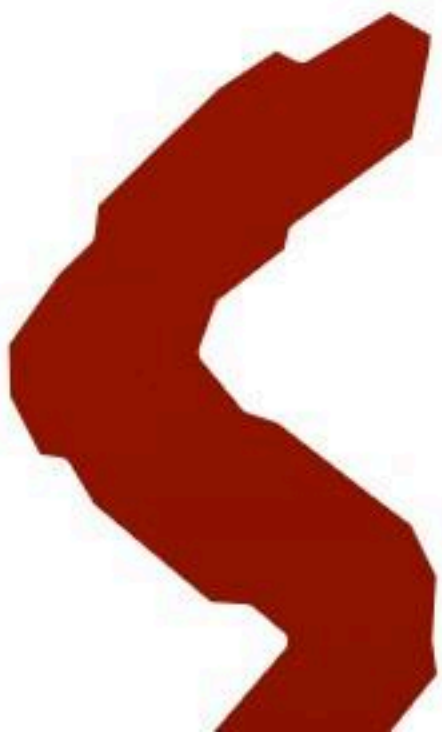
HE FELT NO REMORSE.

IT WILL ALL BE OVER IN A SECOND.
HE SKIMMED THROUGH THE PEOPLE'S FACES
SOON A [illegible] FLAME SPARKED FROM THE

THE *TRUE* PROTAGONIST OF THIS STORY.


...WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE.
WHAT? BUT...

IF WE DON'T LEAVE RIGHT NOW...



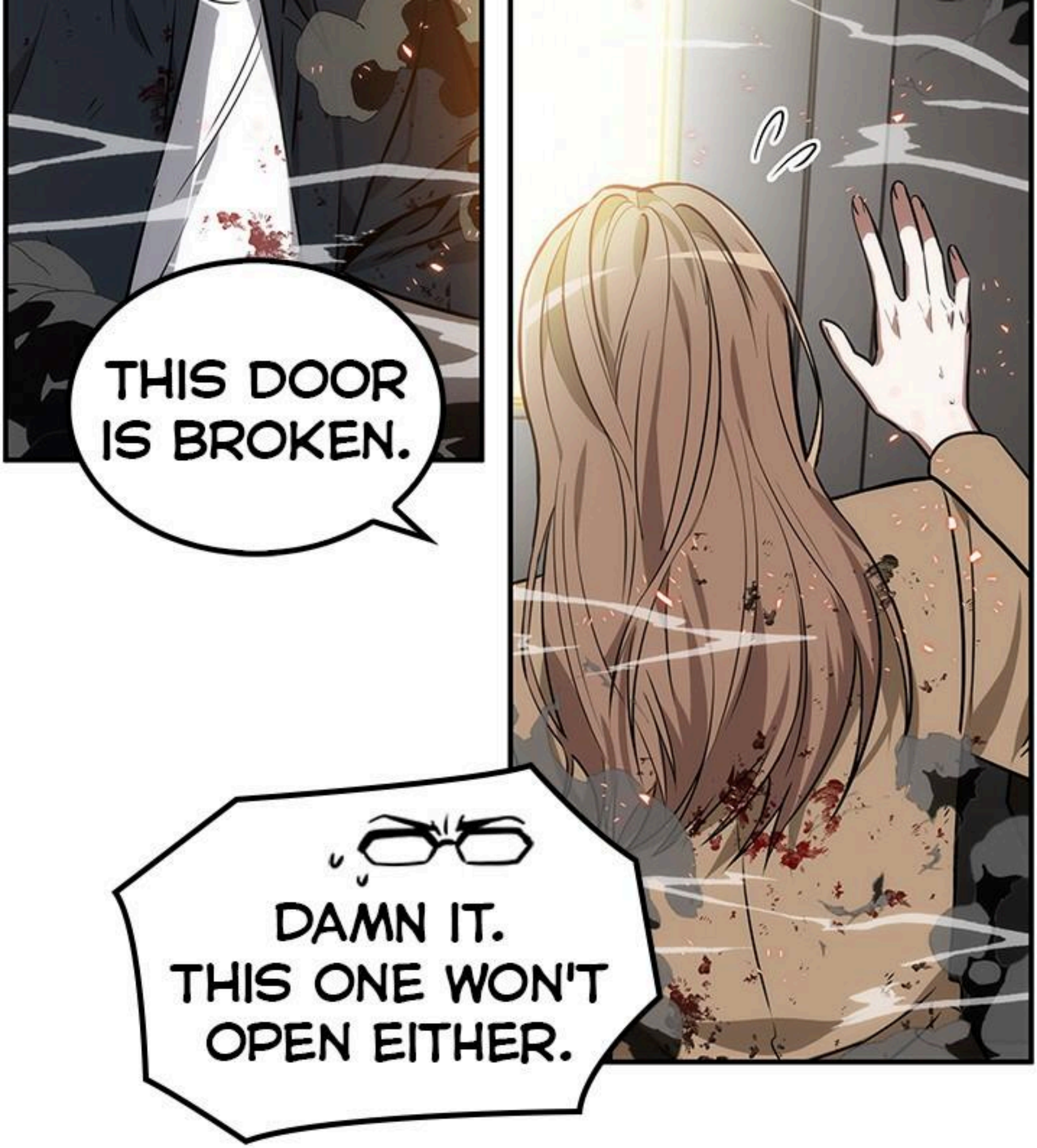
...WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE BEFORE THE NEXT SCENARIO.
L
A

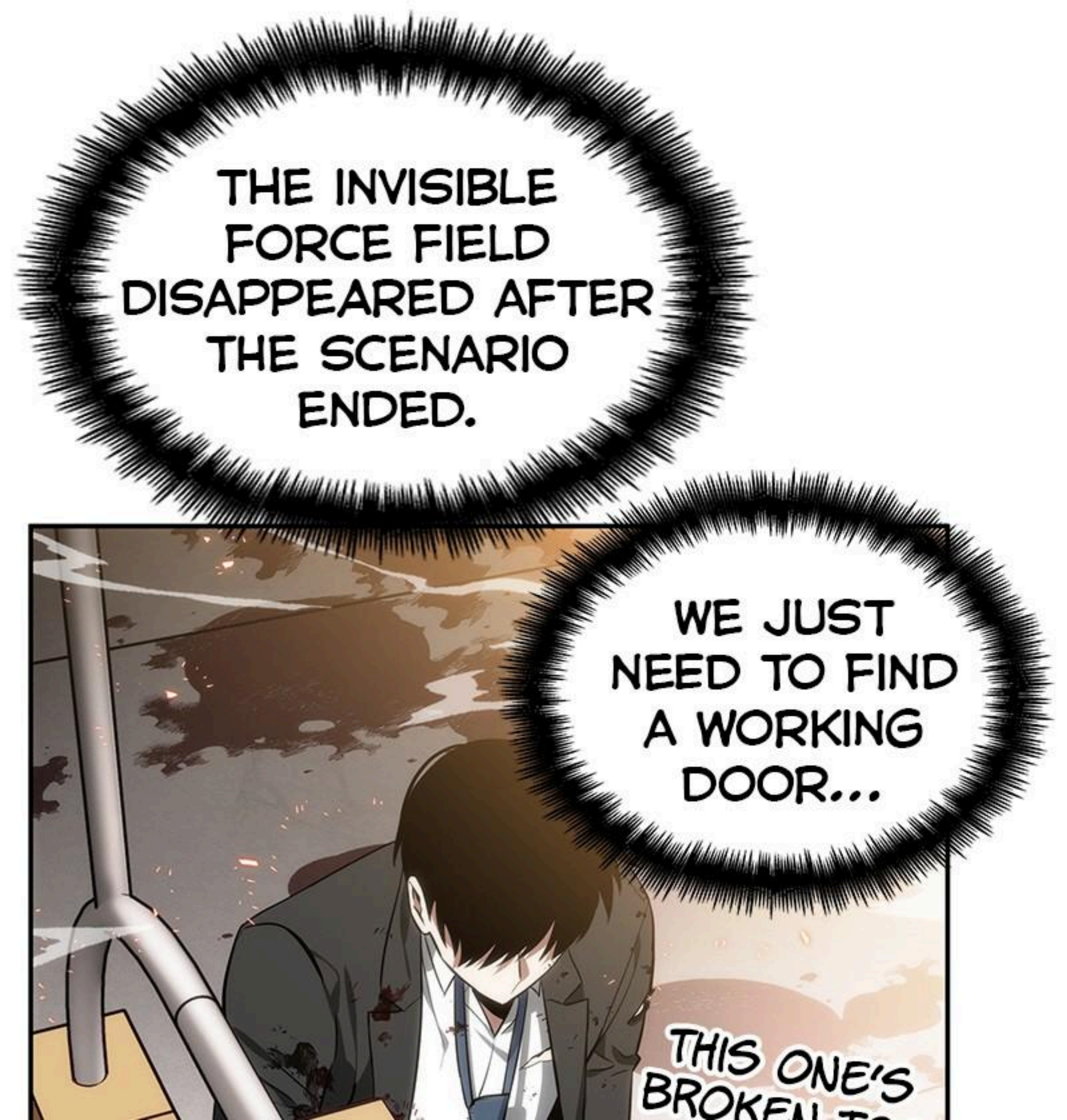
D-DOKJA,
WE CAN'T BE
SURE THAT WHATEVER
IS ON THE OTHER SIDE
OF THAT DOOR IS
OUR ENEMY.

HE'S THE SURVIVOR WHO KILLED ALL THOSE PEOPLE IN HIS CABIN.

DO YOU STILL WANT TO MEET HIM?

LET'S FIND A WAY OUT OF HERE.

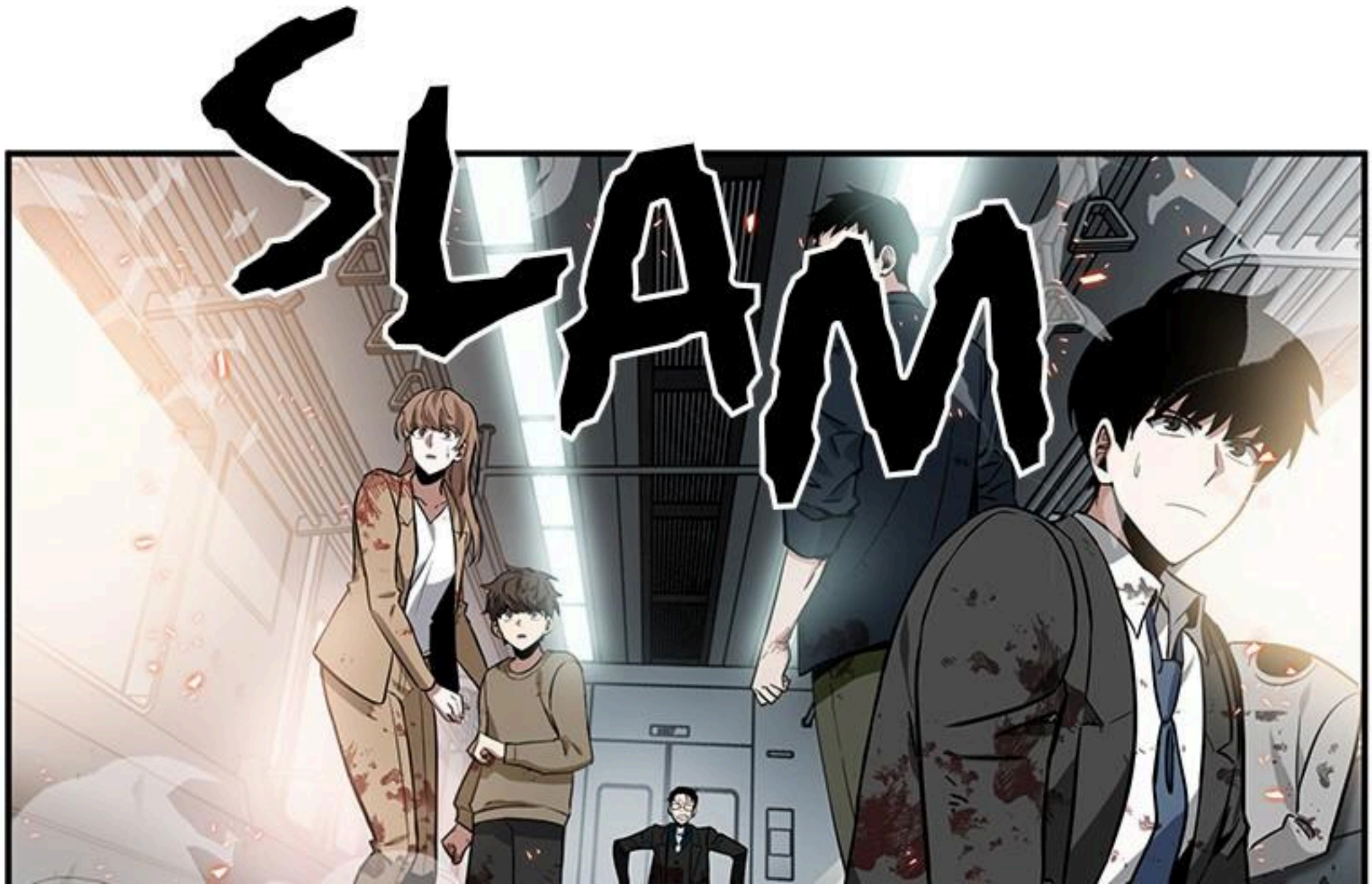

THIS DOOR IS BROKEN.
DAMN IT. THIS ONE WON'T OPEN EITHER.


THE INVISIBLE FORCE FIELD DISAPPEARED AFTER THE SCENARIO ENDED.
WE JUST NEED TO FIND A WORKING DOOR...
THIS ONE'S BROKEN TO

AMONG THE EIGHT DOORS IN THIS CABIN, WE HAVEN'T CHECKED THREE OF THEM YET.

DAMN IT. THERE HAS TO BE ONE DOOR THAT WORKS.

ㄱ
A
M


SLAM

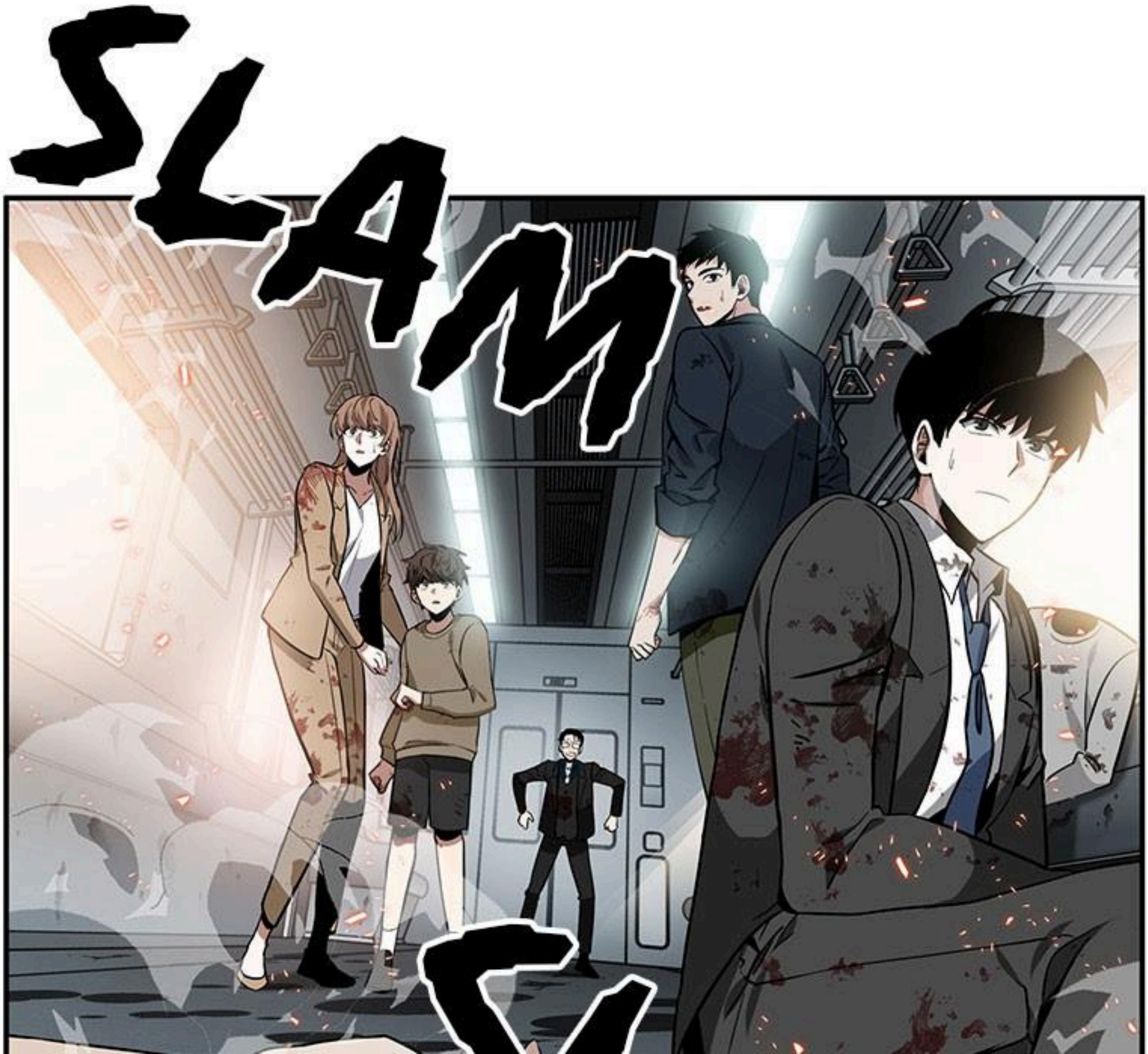
SLAM

SL

ㅅ
ㅅ

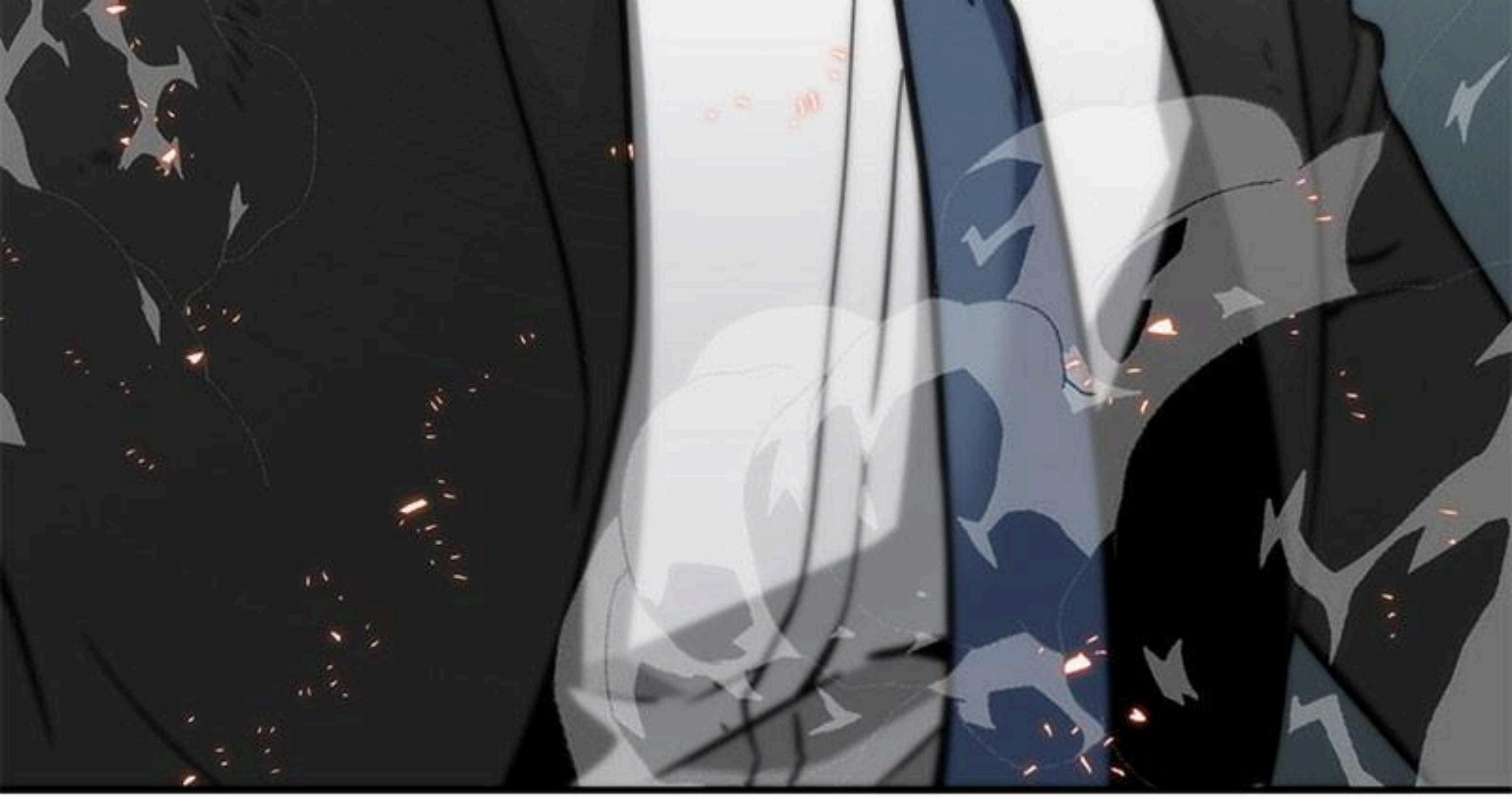
Produced/Edited by Redice Studio
Published by L7

44


SLASH

SLAM

SLAM



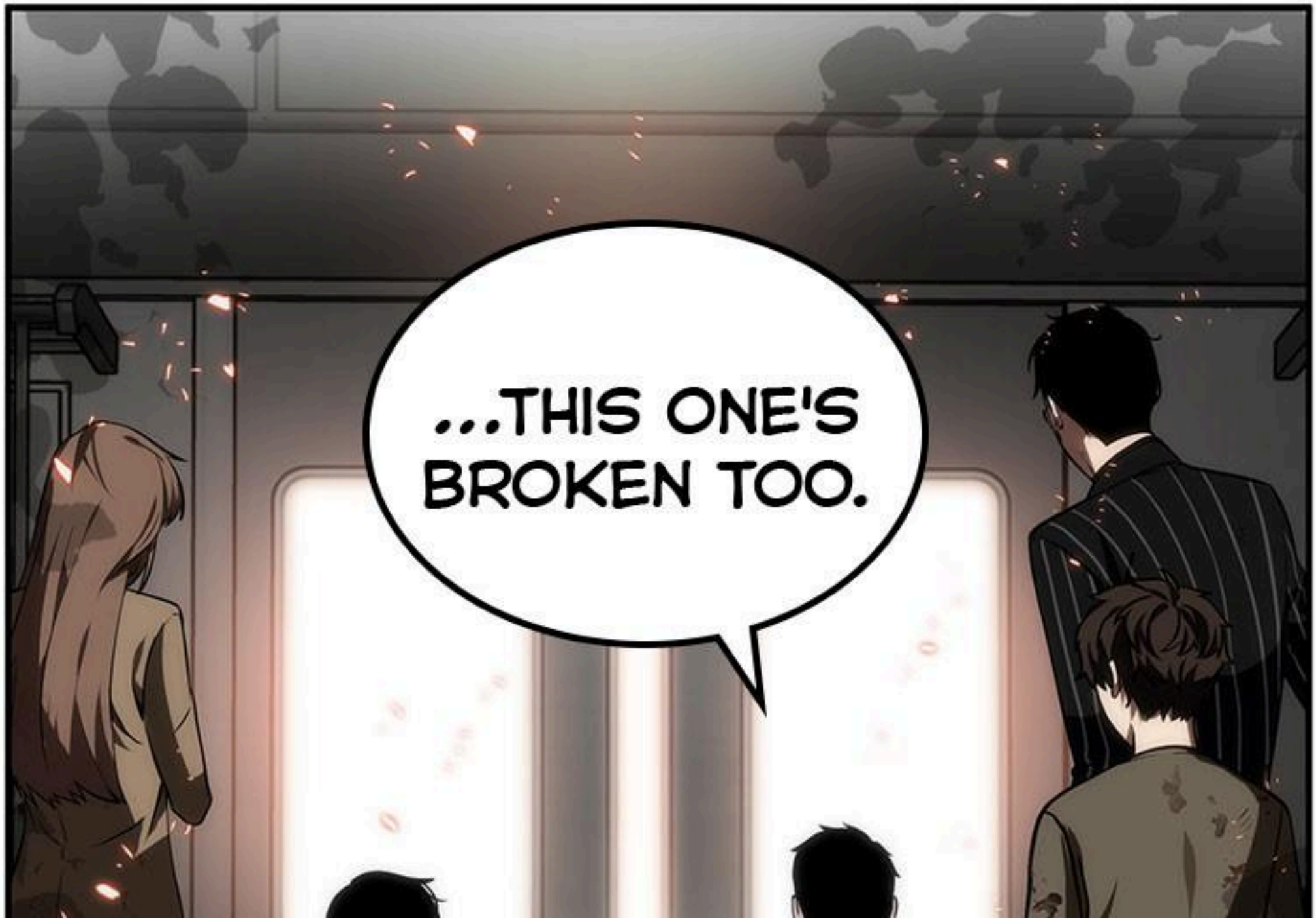
DOKJA, OVER HERE!
!

OKAY, I'M GOING TO OPEN IT.

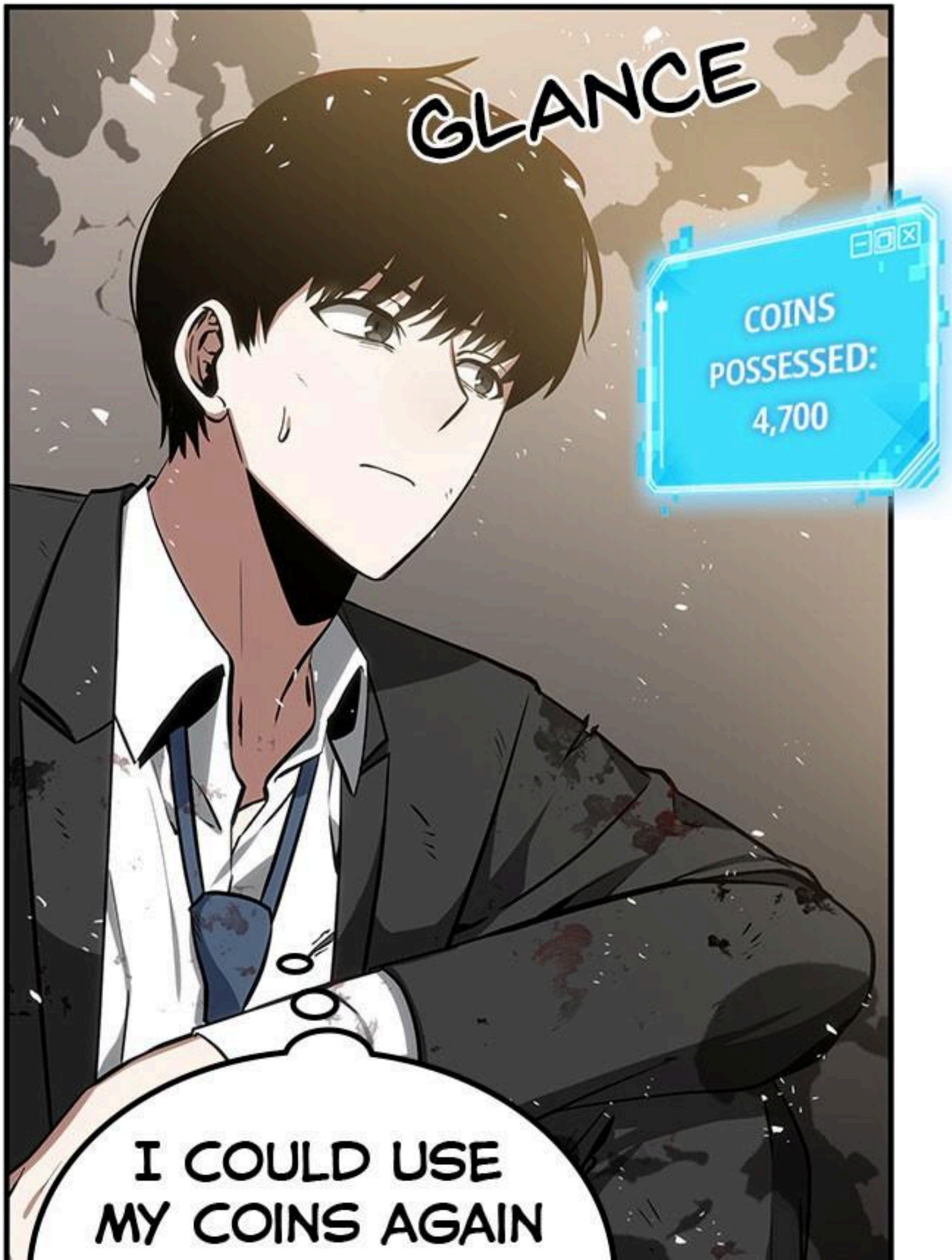
CREAK

CREAK

CREAK


...THIS ONE'S BROKEN TOO.

BUT IT'S STILL THE ONLY ONE WE HAVE A CHANCE AT OPENING.


GLANCE
COINS POSSESSED: 4,700
I COULD USE MY COINS AGAIN

AND INCREASE MY STRENGTH THIS TIME...

BUT WHO KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN? RECKLESSLY USING MY COINS SO EARLY ON COULD BE DANGEROUS.

HYEONSEONG, USE YOUR SKILL.
WHAT?

[PERSONAL SKILL
CHARACTER PROFILE
ACTIVATED.]

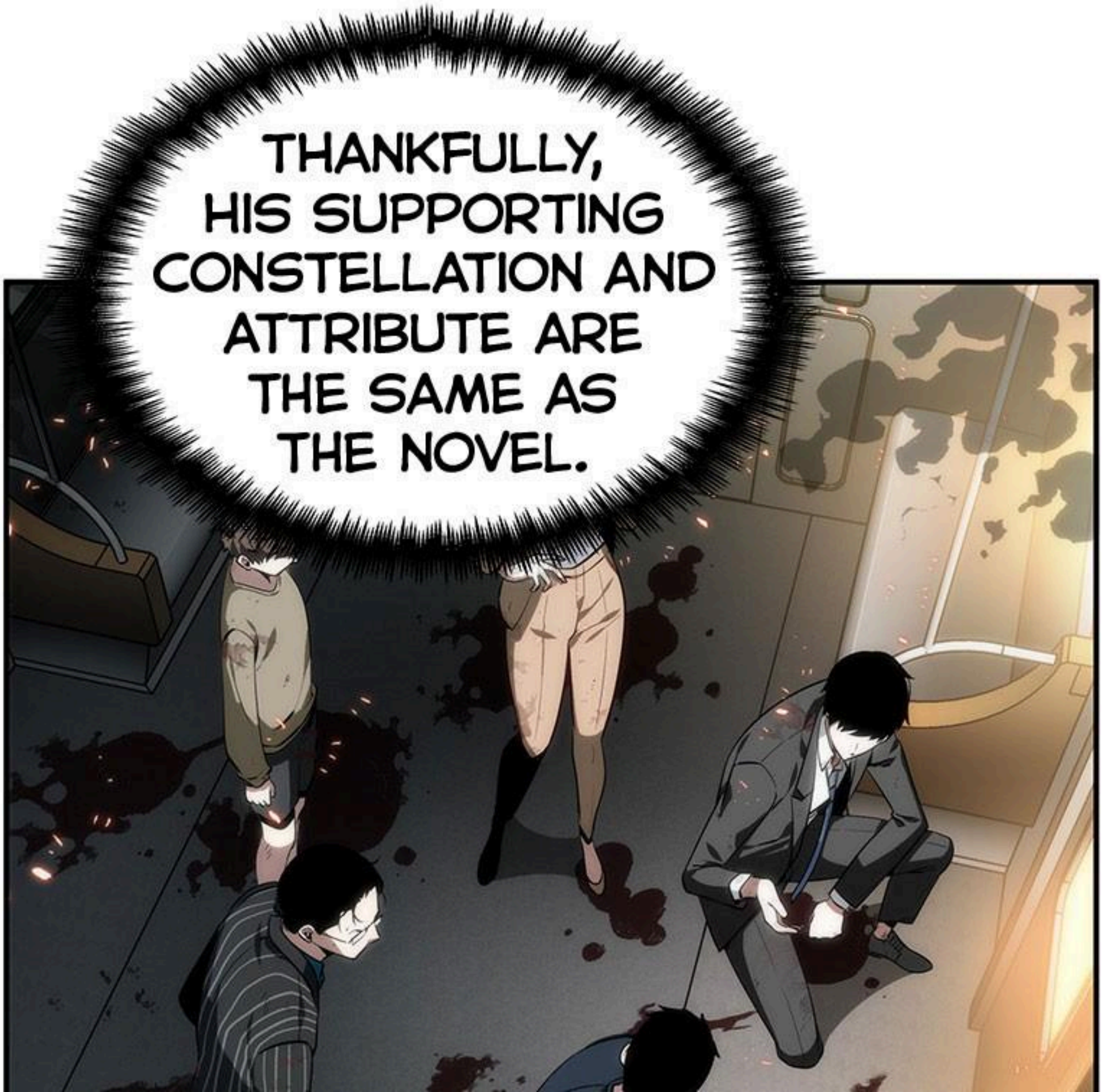
BY SKILL,
YOU MEAN...

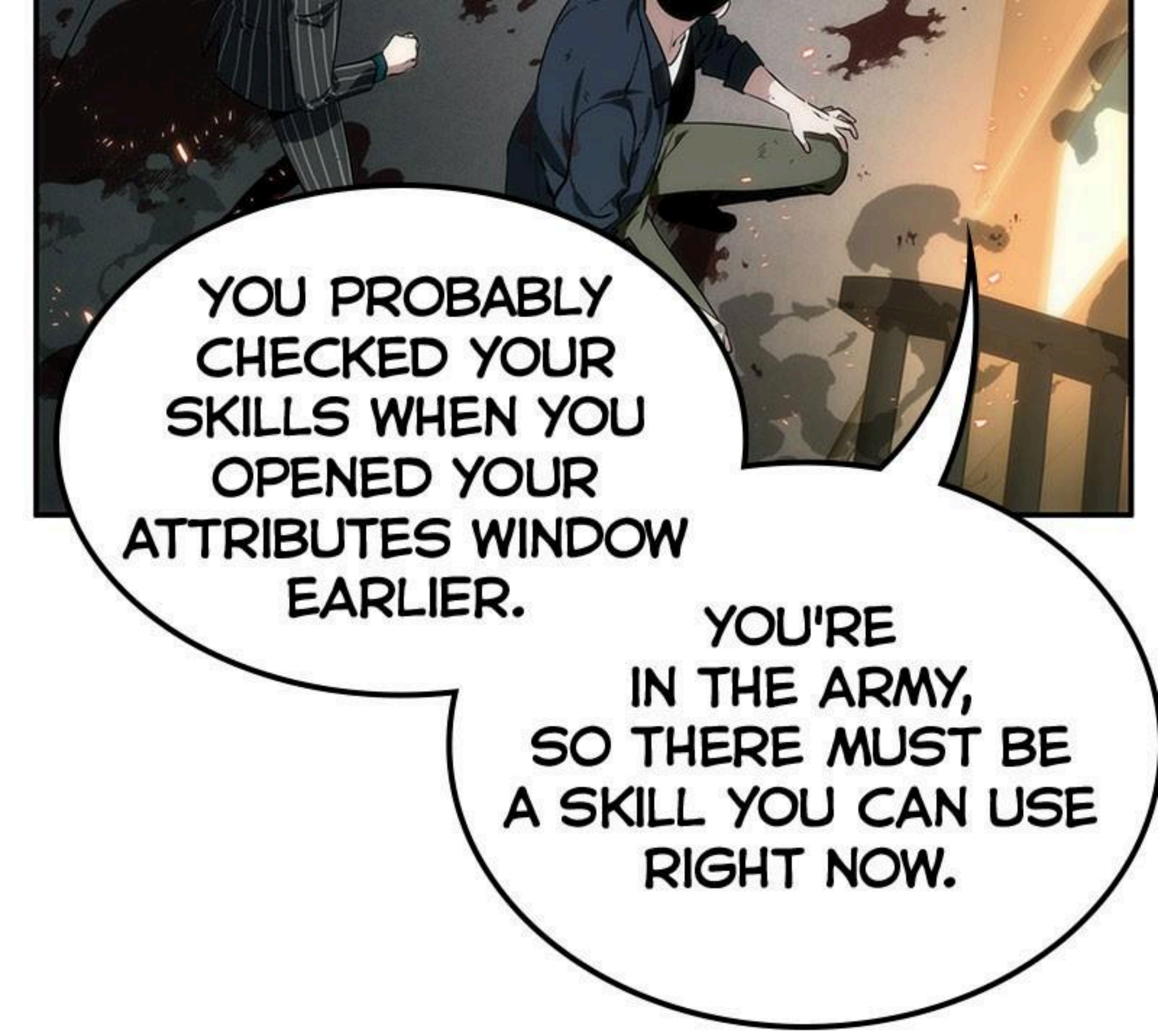
[CHARACTER PROFILE]
NAME: HYEONGSEONG LEE
AGE: 28
SUPPORTING CONSTELLATION:
MASTER OF STEEL
PERSONAL ATTRIBUTE: SOLDIER WHO
TURNED A BLIND EYE TO INJUSTICE (GENERAL)
PERSONAL SKILLS: [BAYONET LV. 2]

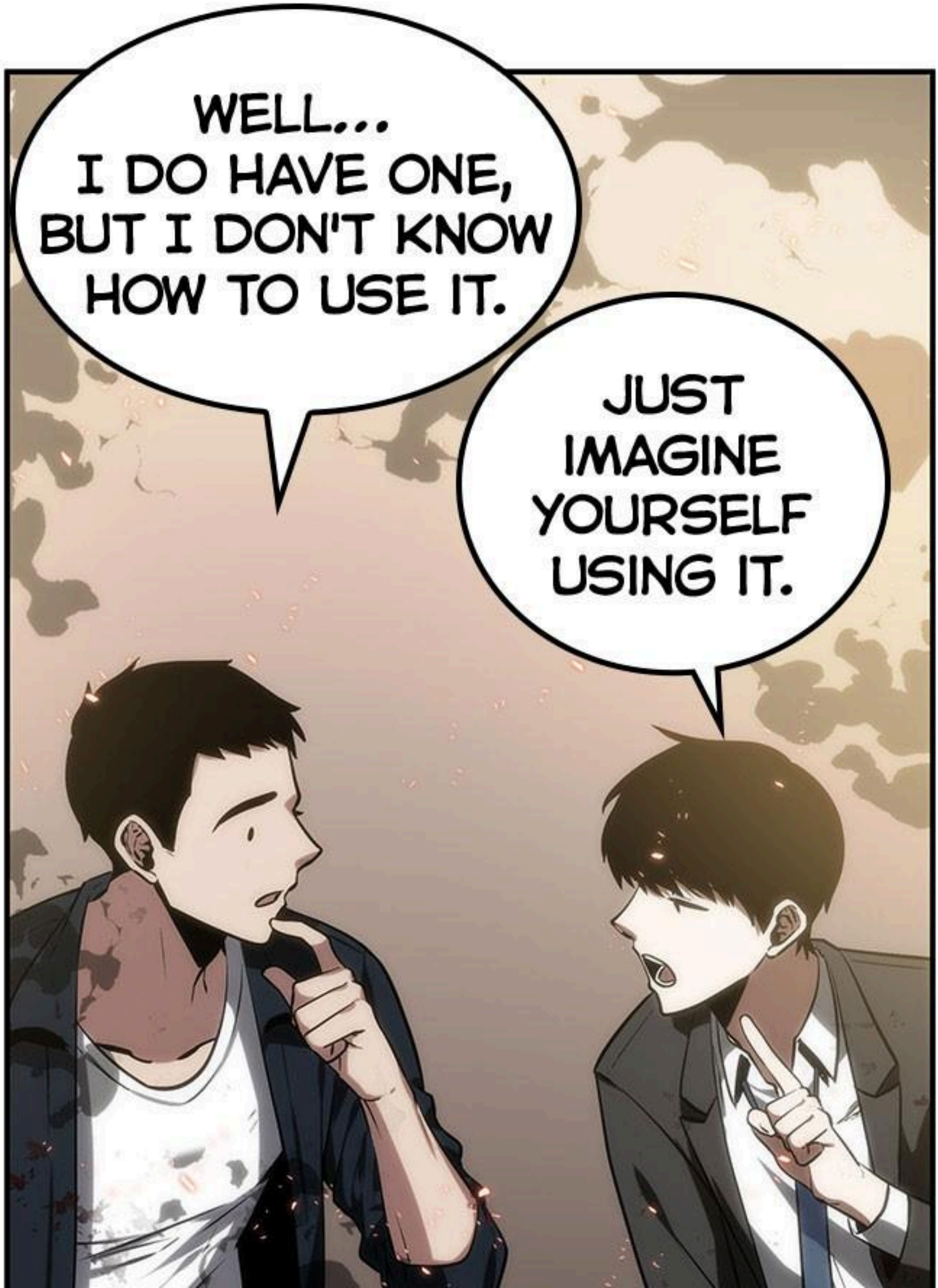
PERSONAL SKILLS: [BAYONET LV. 2], [CAMOUFLAGE LV. 2], [PATIENCE LV. 2]

STIGMA: [GREAT MOUNTAIN PUSH LV. 1]
OVERALL STATS: [STAMINA LV. 8], [STRENGTH LV. 8], [AGILITY LV. 7], [MANA LV. 5]

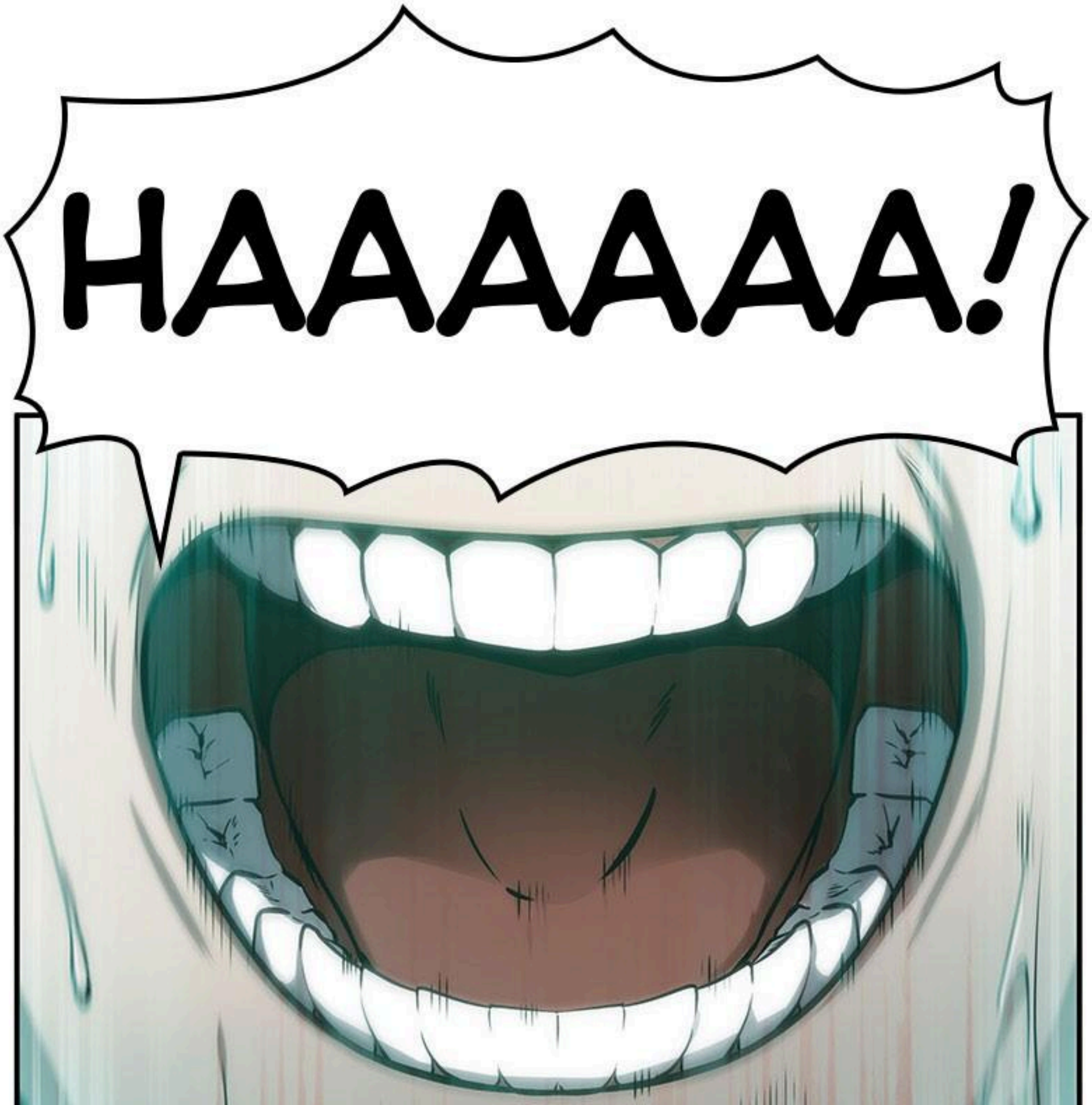
GENERAL EVALUATION: HYEONGSEONG LEE HAS VERY GOOD OVERALL STATS. ALTHOUGH HOW READILY HE TURNED A BLIND EYE TO INJUSTICE WAS SURPRISING, A CONSTELLATION STILL SELECTED HIM. THIS IS ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR HIM.

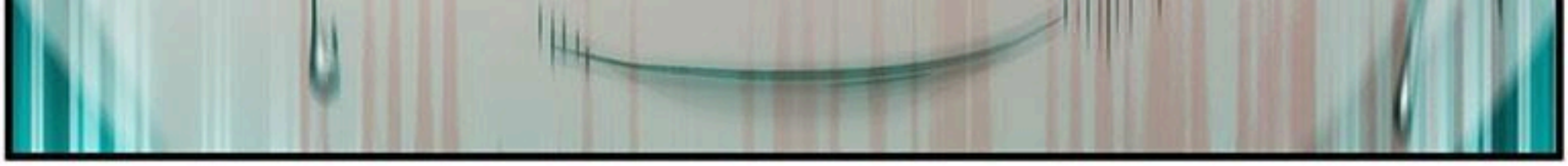

THANKFULLY, HIS SUPPORTING CONSTELLATION AND ATTRIBUTE ARE THE SAME AS THE NOVEL.


YOU PROBABLY CHECKED YOUR SKILLS WHEN YOU OPENED YOUR ATTRIBUTES WINDOW EARLIER.
YOU'RE IN THE ARMY, SO THERE MUST BE A SKILL YOU CAN USE RIGHT NOW.


WELL...
I DO HAVE ONE, BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO USE IT.
JUST IMAGINE YOURSELF USING IT.

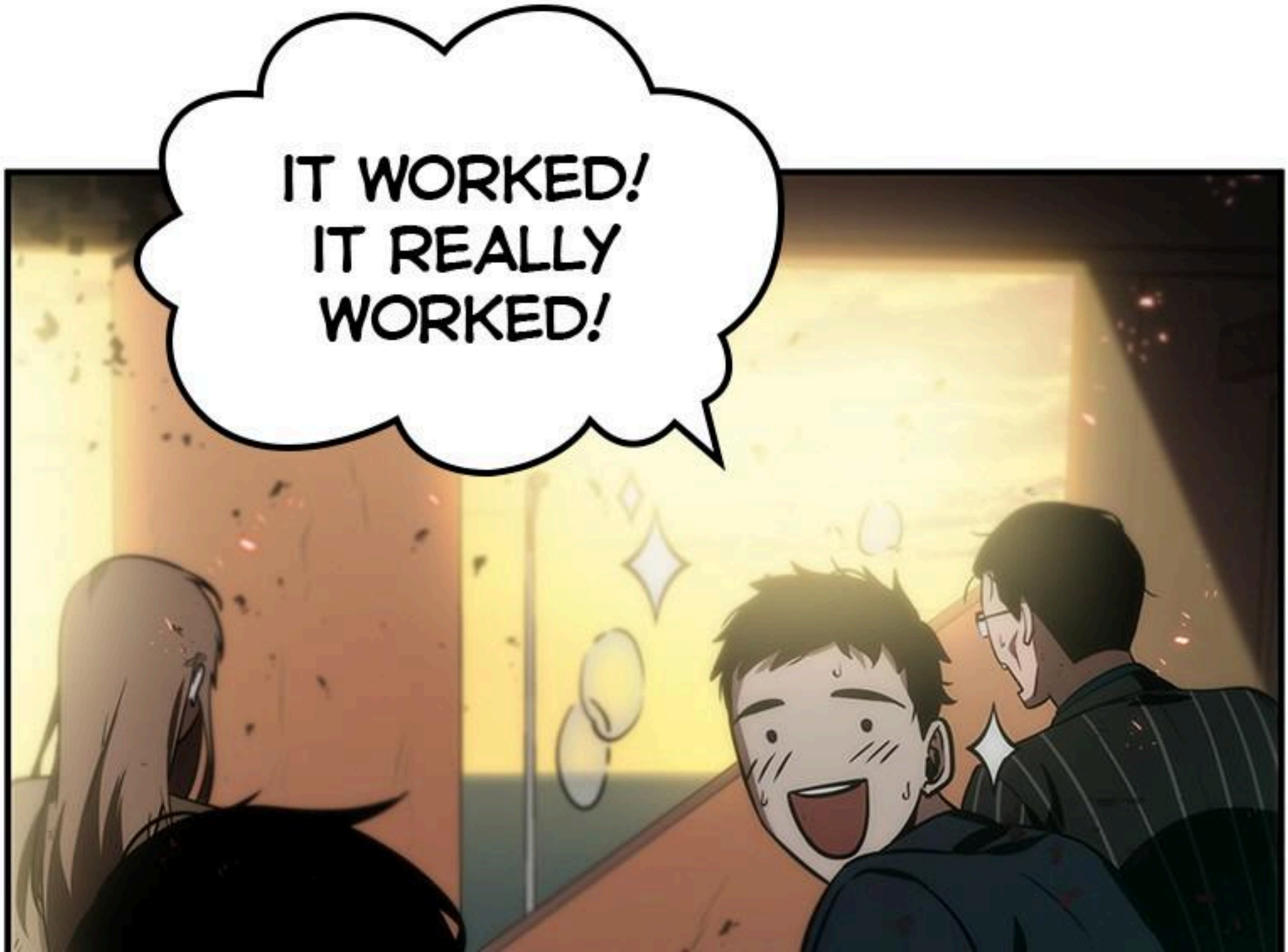
THAT'S ALL IT TAKES?


HAAAAAA!



RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE

TTLE
AHHH!
B
A

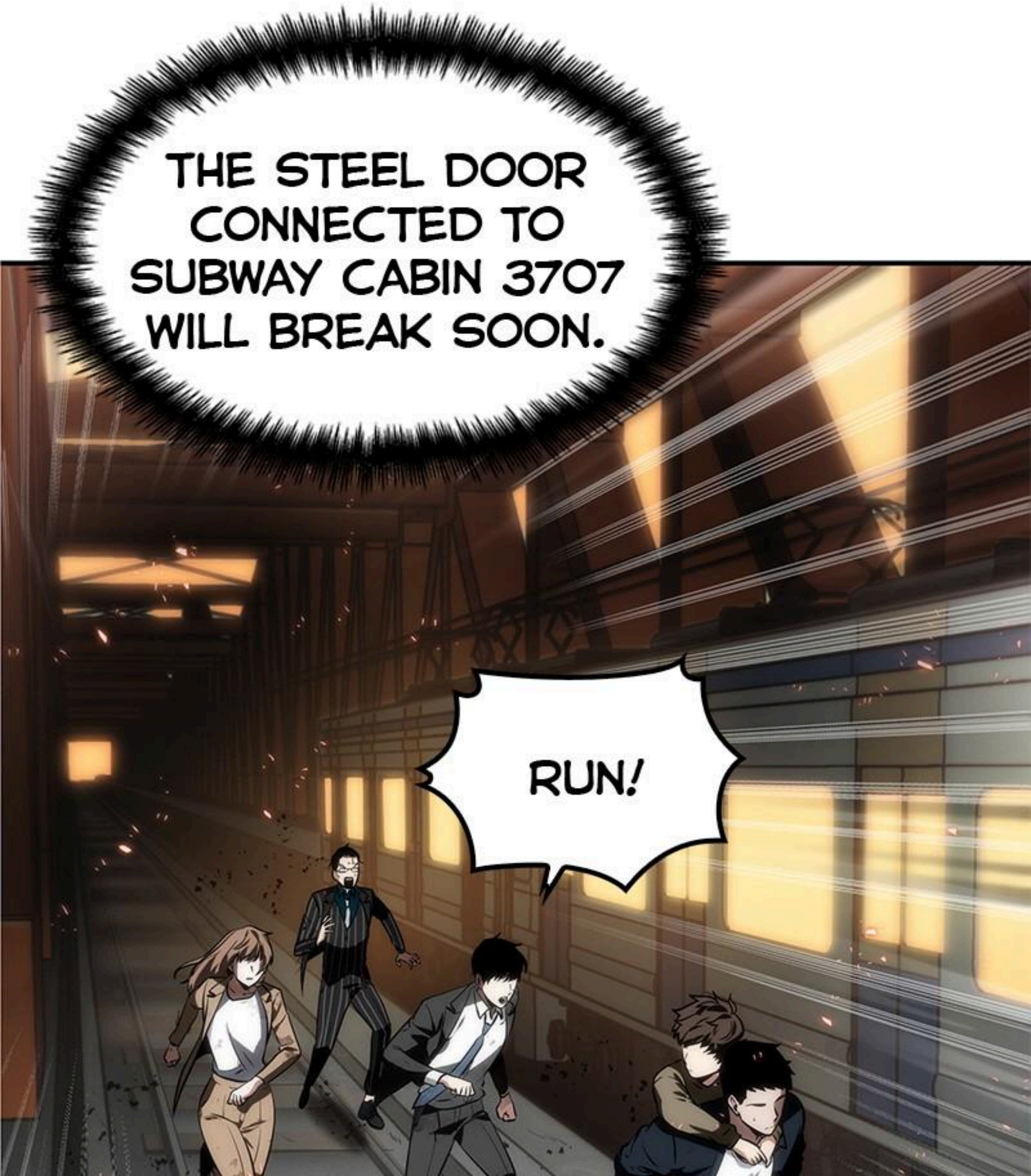

IT WORKED! IT REALLY WORKED!

[*HYEONSEONG LEE* HAS BEGUN TO TRUST YOU.]

[YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF *HYEONSEONG LEE* HAS INCREASED.]

LOOKS LIKE THE ***STIGMA***, [GREAT MOUNTAIN PUSH], SUCCESSFULLY ACTIVATED.

HE'S SO SIMPLE-MINDED...


THE STEEL DOOR CONNECTED TO SUBWAY CABIN 3707 WILL BREAK SOON.
RUN!

BUT IF MY MEMORY SERVES ME RIGHT...

...THE STEEL DOOR ISN'T THE PROBLEM.

...GOSH.
I KNEW THIS
WOULD HAPPEN.

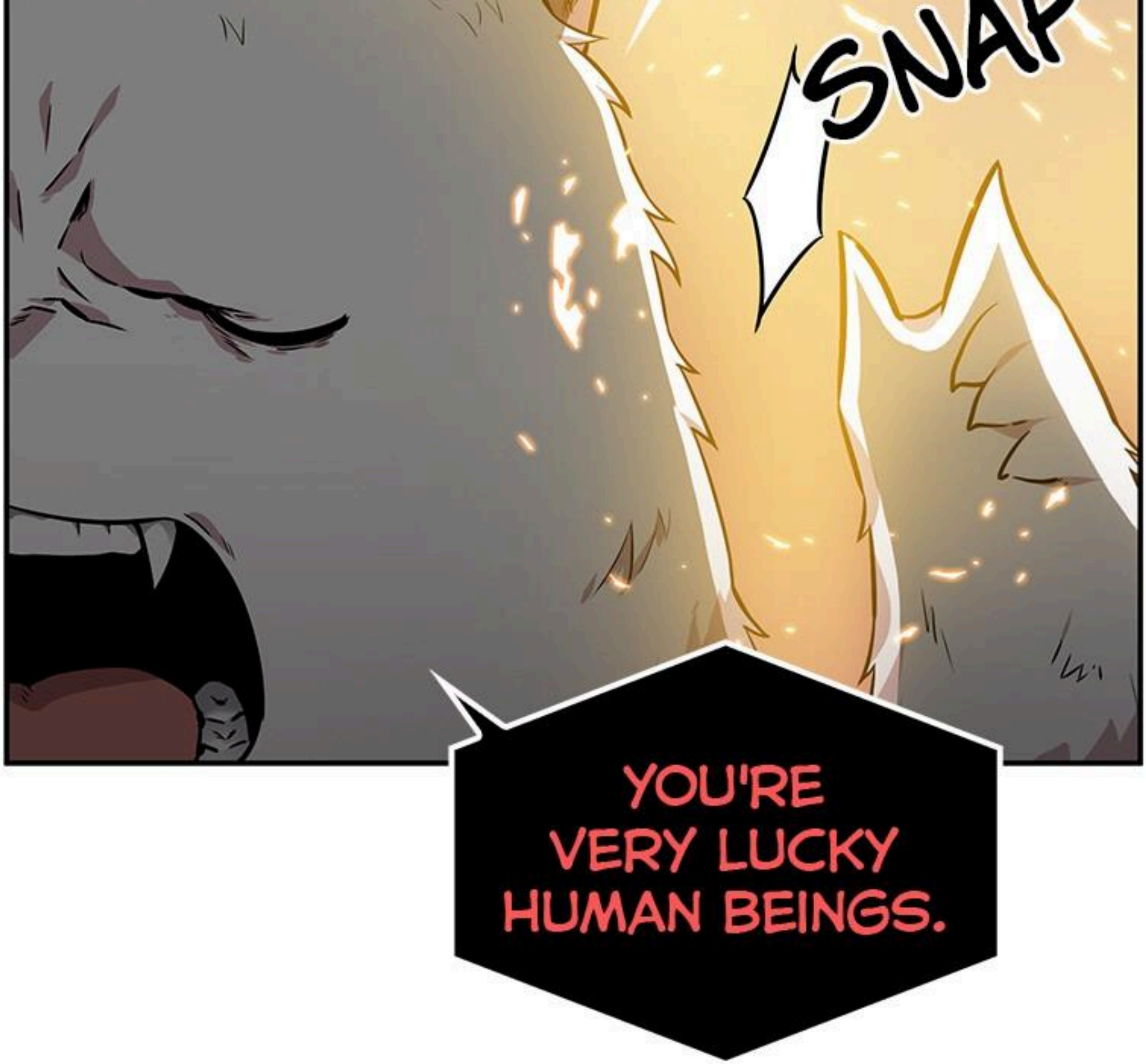
I TOLD YOU EARLIER...
TO STAY PUT.

DAMN IT!
I'M NOT DONE
PREPARING THE
NEXT SCENARIO.

AHH! I KNEW IT! I TOLD YOU WE SHOULD STAY INSIDE!
M-MY HEAD!

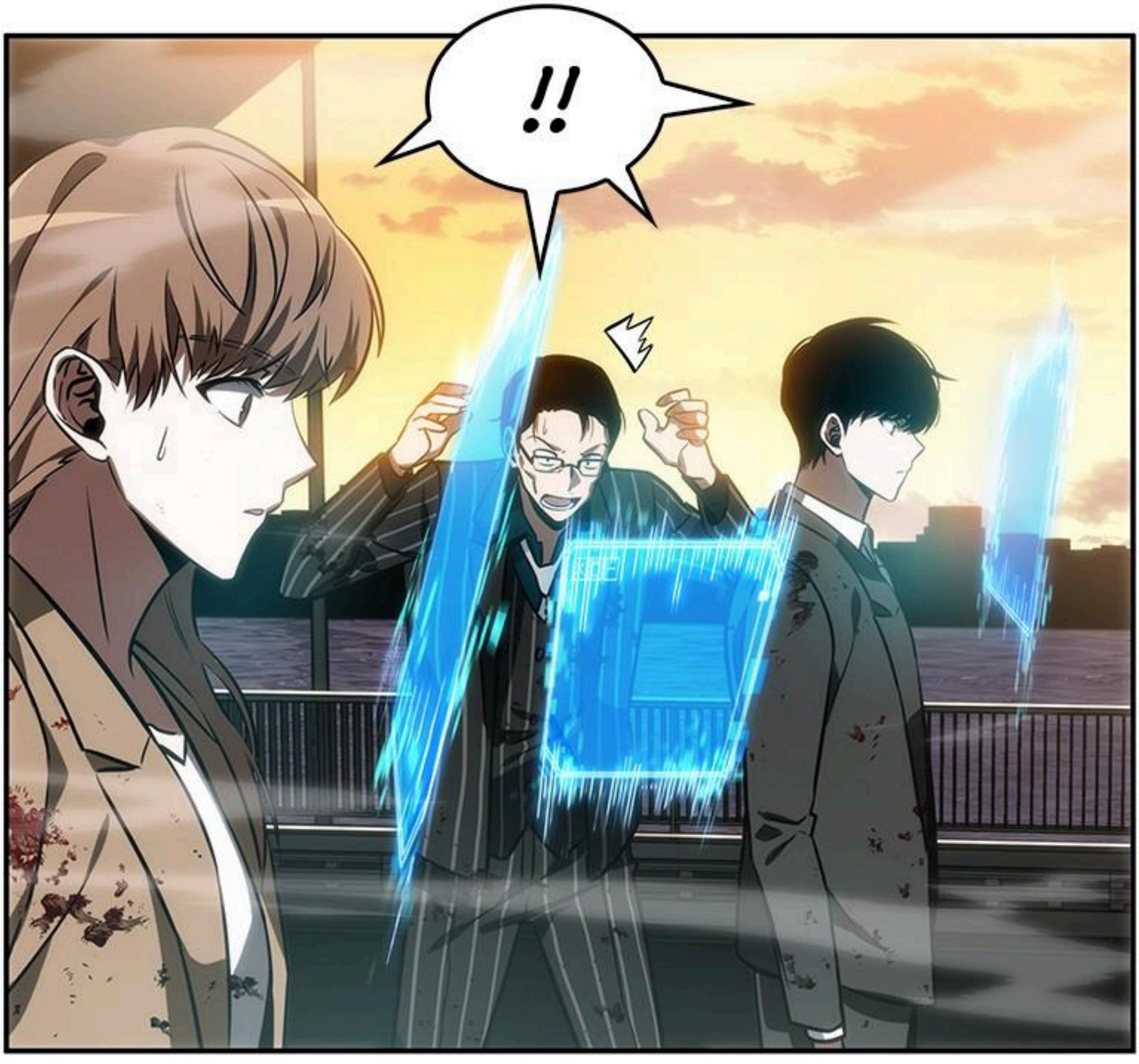
SIGH...

WELL,
I GUESS
I HAVE NO
CHOICE.


SNAP
YOU'RE VERY LUCKY HUMAN BEINGS.

DING

[THE SECOND SCENARIO
HAS ARRIVED.]



<SUB SCENARIO - ESCAPE>

CATEGORY: SUB

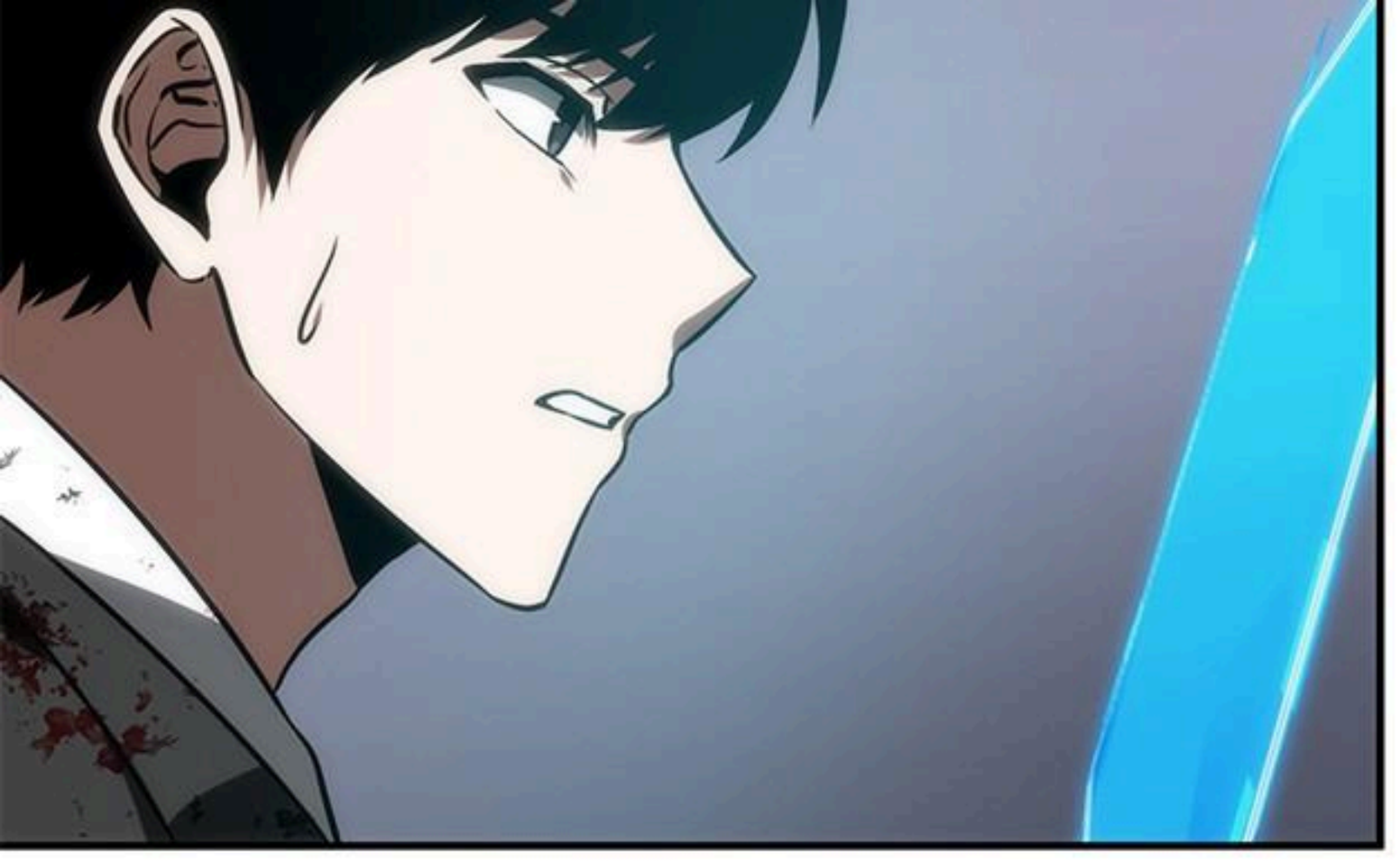
DIFFICULTY: E

CLEAR CONDITIONS:
GET ACROSS THE COLLAPSED BRIDGE AND ENTER OKSU STATION.

TIME LIMIT: 20 MINUTES

REWARD: 200 COINS

PENALTY FOR FAILURE: ???

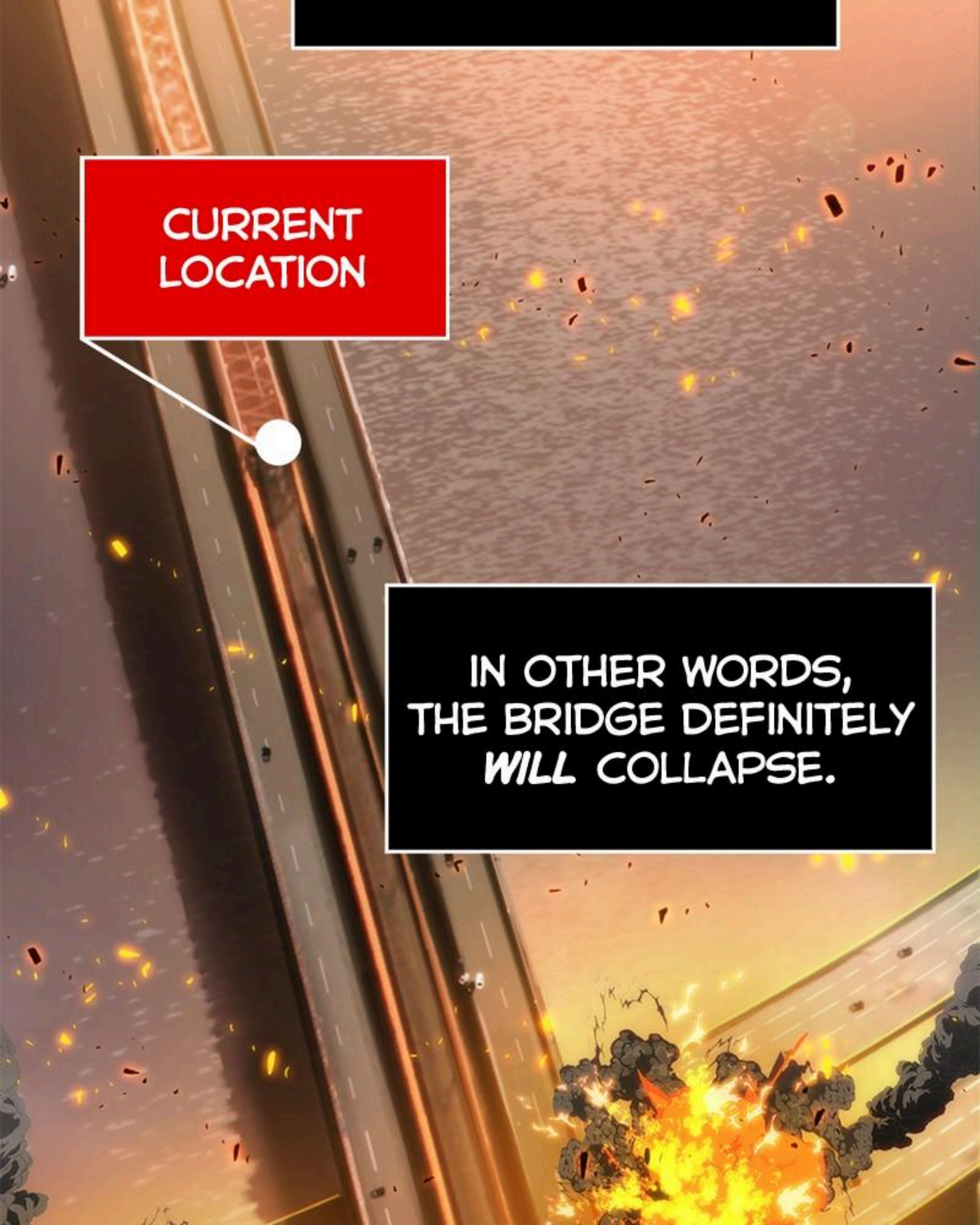


DOKJA, SOMETHING DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT.
IT SAYS *COLLAPSED BRIDGE*, BUT THE BRIDGE ISN'T...
RUN

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT AND JUST RUN! HURRY!

SANGA
IS RIGHT.

THE BRIDGE IS
STILL INTACT BECAUSE
WE GOT OFF THE
TRAIN *TOO EARLY.*


CURRENT LOCATION
IN OTHER WORDS, THE BRIDGE DEFINITELY *WILL* COLLAPSE.

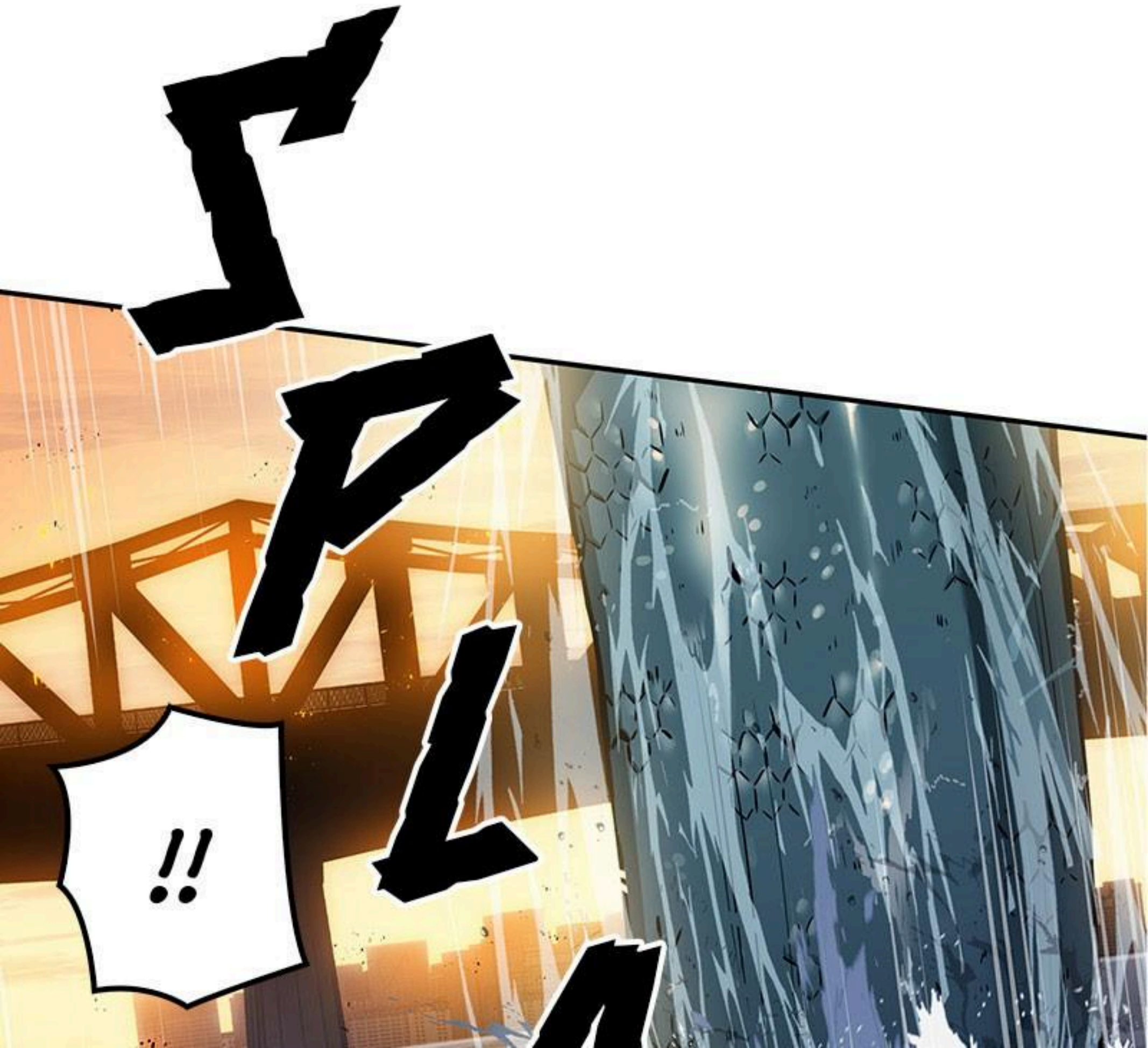
OKSU STATION
IT MIGHT SEEM UNDERHANDED...

BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO CLEAR THIS SCENARIO WITHOUT GOING AROUND THE RULES.

WE'RE CUTTING IT CLOSE, BUT I THINK WE'LL MAKE IT.

AH! WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?

ドン
ビシ

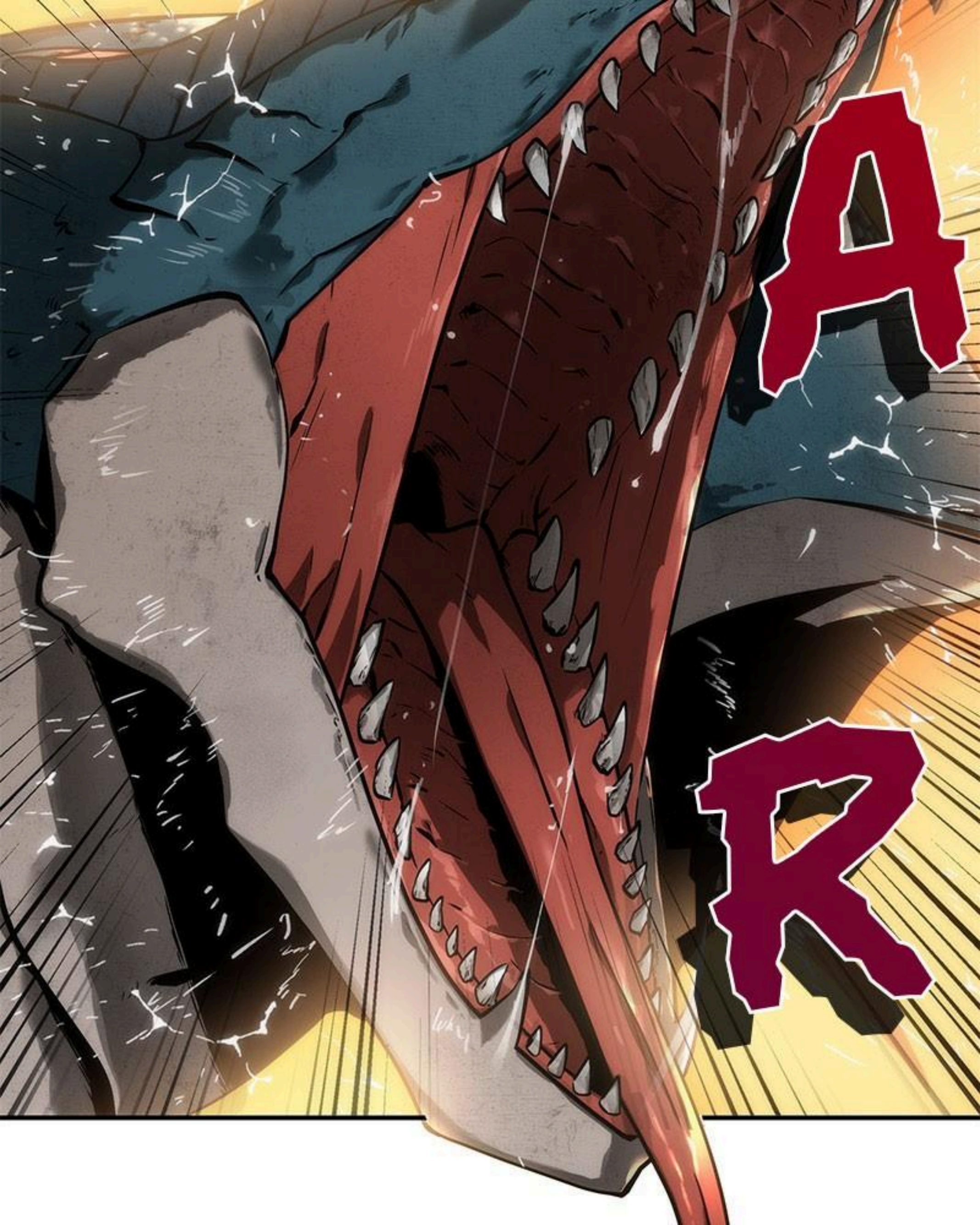

ドル
!!

ASH

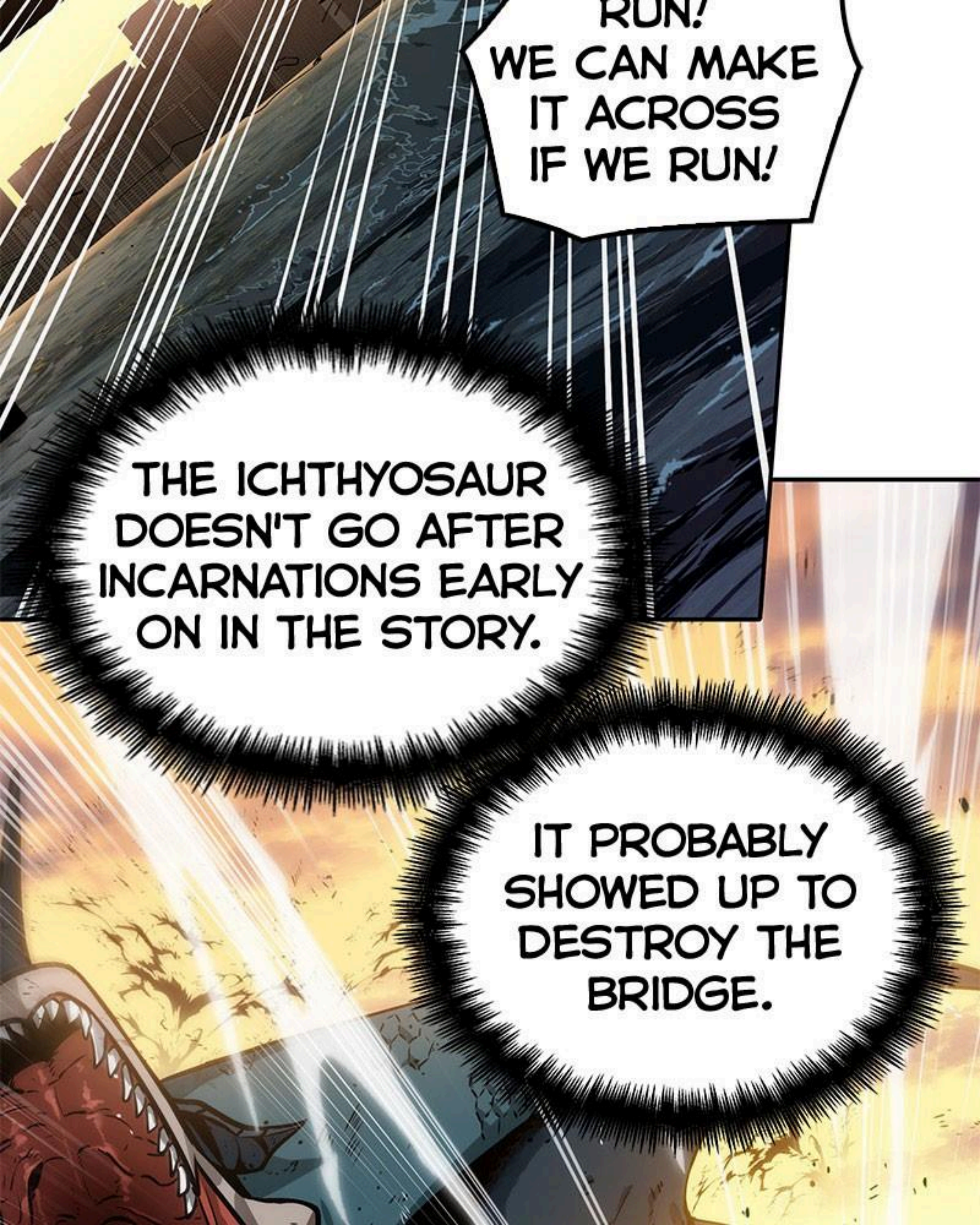
IT'S AN ICHTHYOSAUR! NO, A SEA SERPENT! OR MAYBE A SEA COMMANDER FROM

ITS SIZE?

R
O

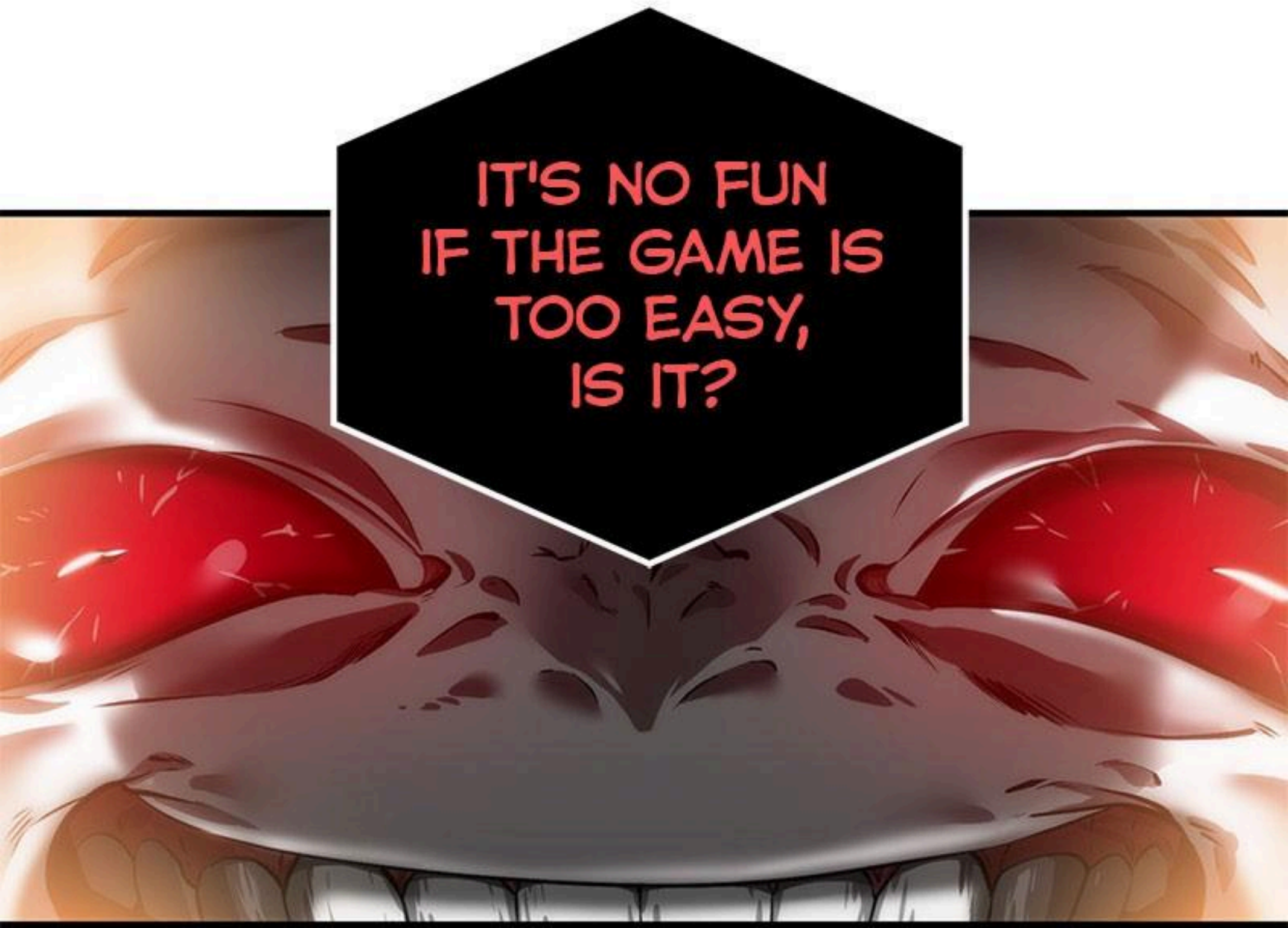

A
R

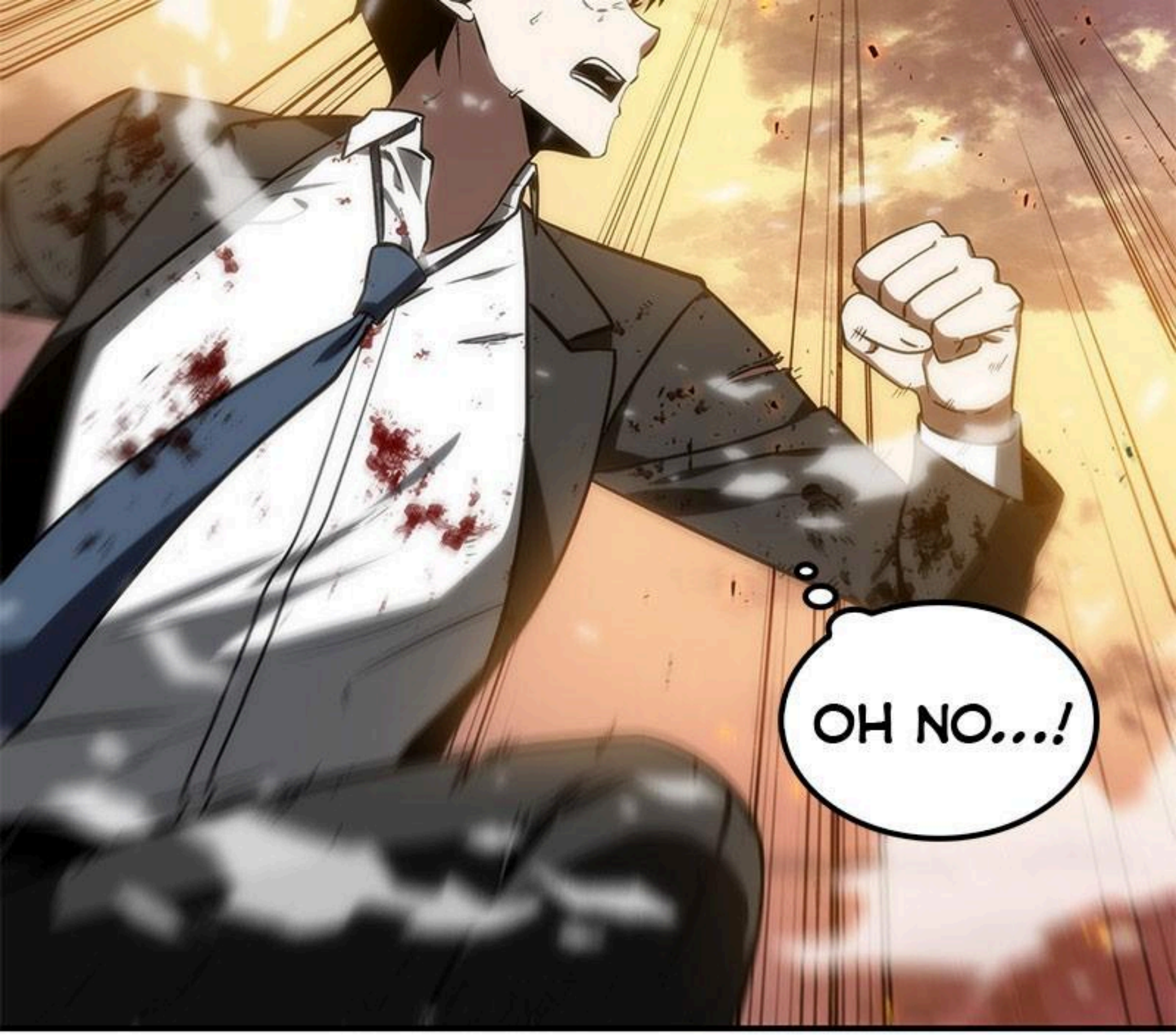
I-IT'S COMING!
THE BRIDGE IS GOING TO COLLAPSE!


RUN! WE CAN MAKE IT ACROSS IF WE RUN!
THE ICHTHYOSAUR DOESN'T GO AFTER INCARNATIONS EARLY ON IN THE STORY.
IT PROBABLY SHOWED UP TO DESTROY THE BRIDGE.

WE ONLY HAVE ABOUT 200 YARDS LEFT!

AT THIS SPEED, WE'LL BE ABLE TO CROSS THE BRIDGE BEFORE IT COLLAPSES.


IT'S NO FUN
IF THE GAME IS
TOO EASY,
IS IT?


OH NO...!

WHAT'S THE FUN IN YOU GETTING AWAY SAFELY?
LET'S SHAKE THINGS UP A BIT!
SNAP

DING

[THE DIFFICULTY OF THE SCENARIO HAS BEEN ADJUSTED.]

DIFFICULTY: E → D

[THE EVIL THOUGHTS OF THE DEAD HAVE RETURNED.]

[BLACK ETHER IS RISING FROM THE SURROUNDING EARTH.]

ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ
ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ

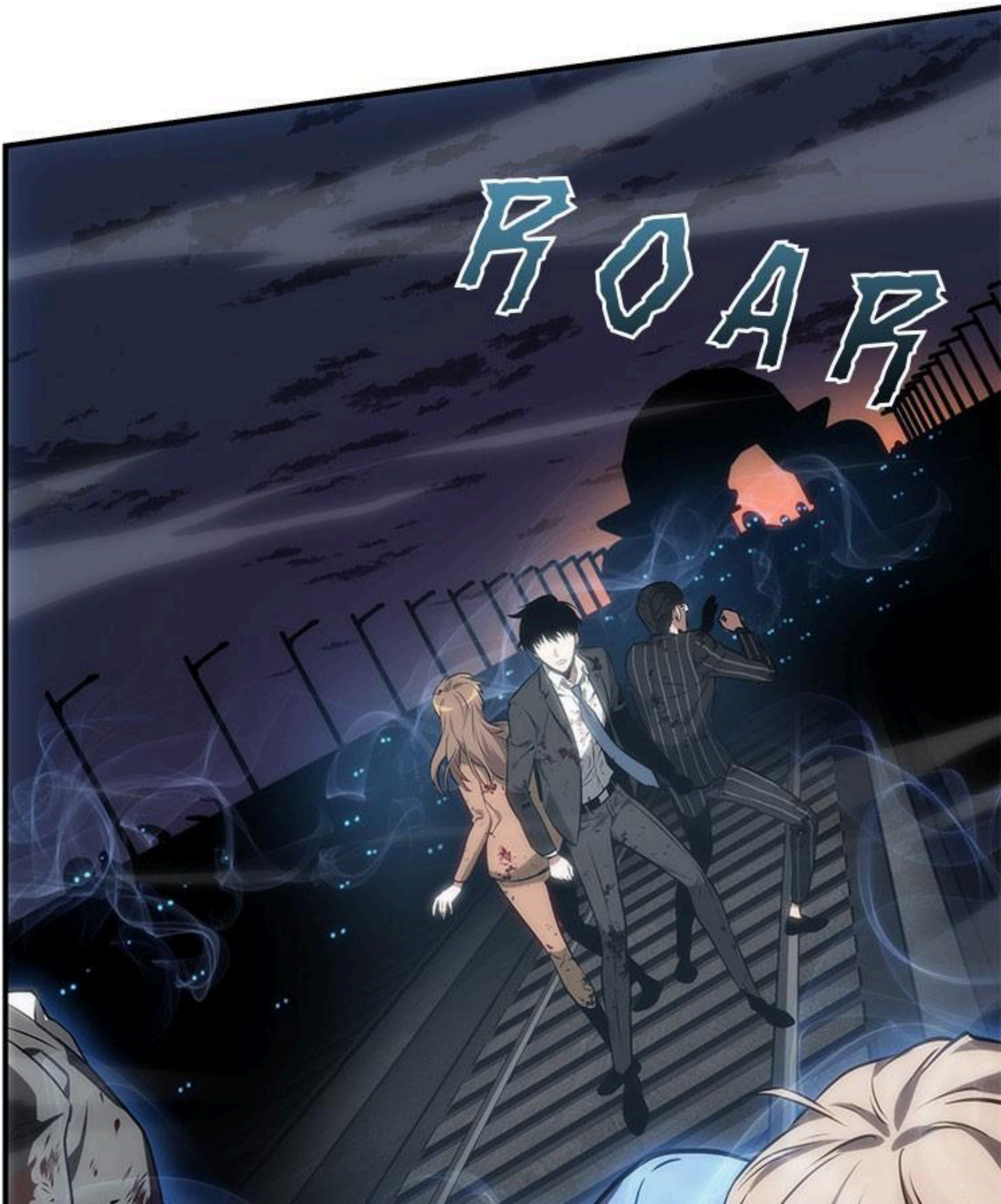
HUH?
Z-ZOMBIES?

[DEMONIC BEINGS HAVE BEEN RESURRECTED!]

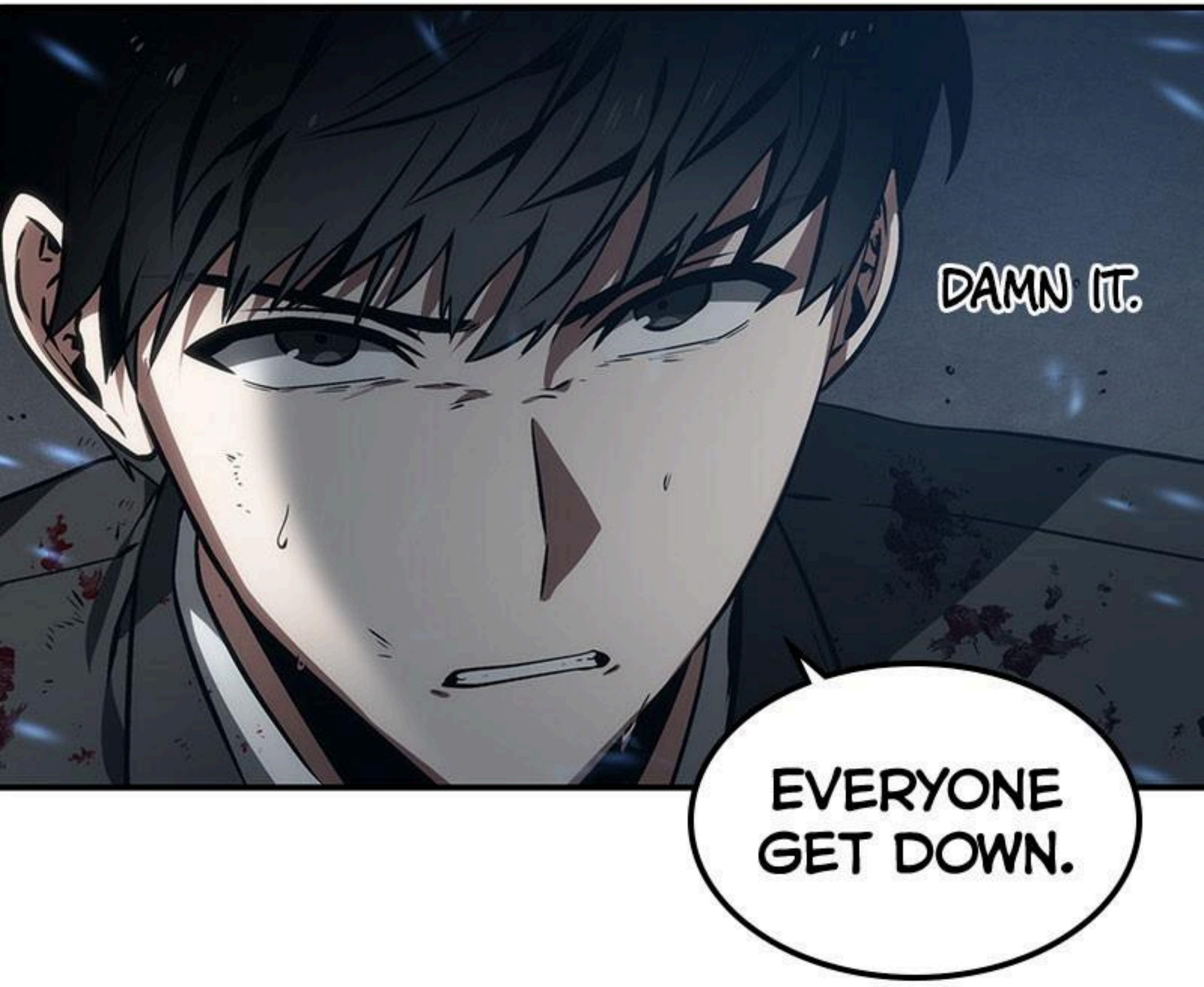
ROAR
AHH! Y-YOU BASTARDS!

DOKJA!

[YOU HAVE ENTERED
OKSU STATION.]


ROAR

ROAR


DAMN IT.
EVERYONE GET DOWN.

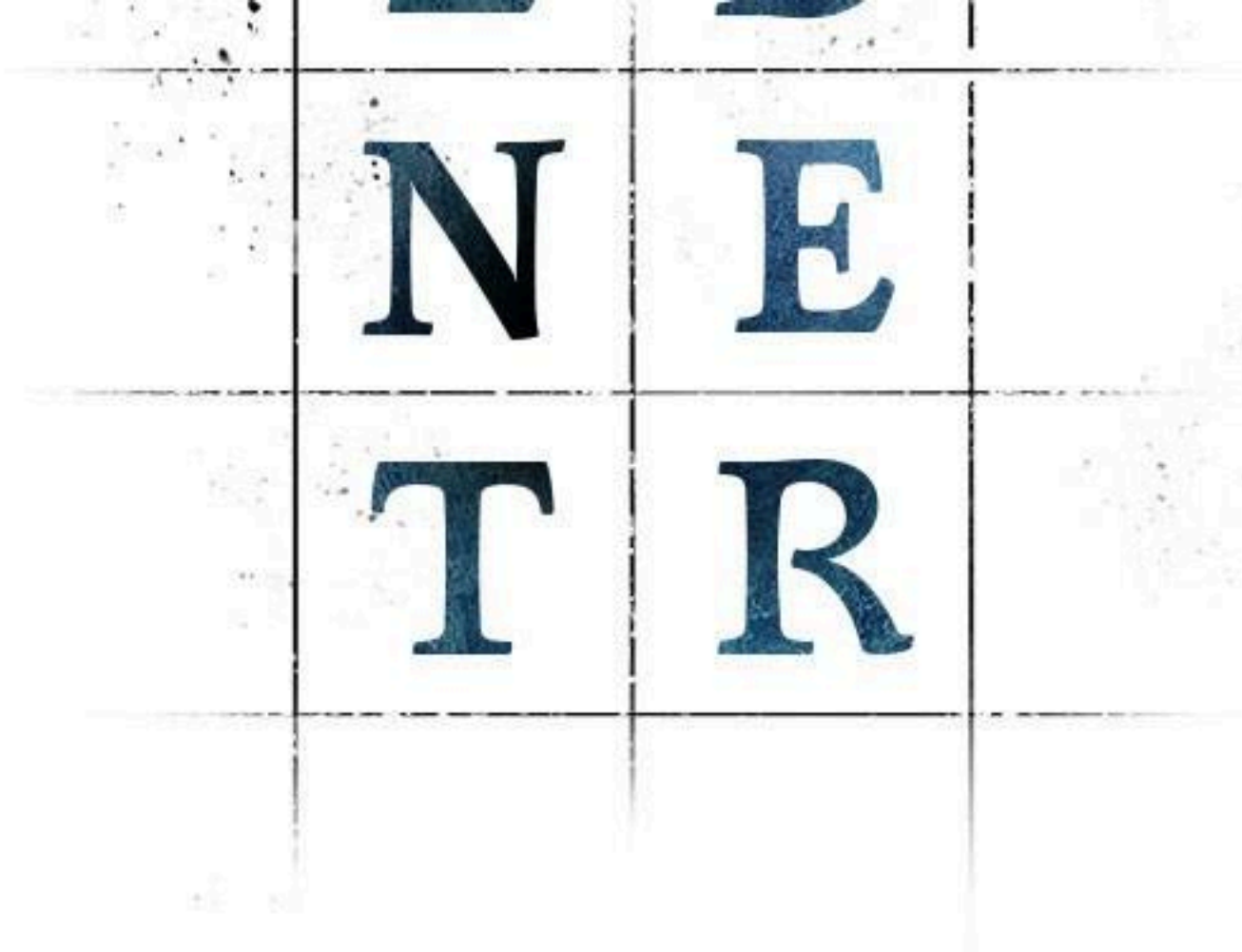
CHOM

P

DOKJA!

FICSIMO

DAER



Art by Sleepy-C | Adapted by UMI | Original Story by Singshong

Episode 9

Chapter 2.

The Protagonist

Part 3

Part 3

Produced/Edited by Redice Studio
Published by L7